Daily Report

Soviet Union

FBIS-SOV-87-251
Thursday
31 December 1987

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Bogachev: ABM Treaty, SDI 'Simply Incompatible'
LD302209 Moscow TASS in English 2147 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 30 TASS—Follows commentary by Vladimir Bogachev, a TASS military news analyst:

The joint Soviet-American statement at the highest level on the results of the Washington meeting points out considerable positive change in resolving the fundamental problem, that of a 50 percent cut in the strategic weapons of both powers. As is known, the resolution of that task is organically linked with the strict observance of commitments by the USSR and the USA under the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems of 1972. Judging by the text of the joint statement, considerable mutual understanding has been reached in that field too. Thus, for example, it was pointed out that the leaders of both states had instructed their delegations in Geneva to draw up agreements that would make it incumbent upon the sides to observe the ABM Treaty the way it was signed in 1972, including in the process of research, development and, if necessary, testing, which is permitted under that agreement. And—not to withdraw from the ABM Treaty in the course of agreed time.

Yet right after the Washington meeting, some American political figures made attempts at preventing the possibility of a change in the climate of the relations between the USSR and the USA for the better. Some people were even trying to prove that at the Washington talks the Soviet Union allegedly gave up its principled objections against the militarisation of outer space, and under that far-fetched pretext they call for speeding up the implementation of the U.S. Star Wars programme.

Meanwhile, that programme provides for the violation of the most important provisions of the treaty of 1972. The ABM Treaty and the Star Wars programme are simply incompatible. Thus, for example, the parties to the treaty undertake not to deploy and not to test ABM space-based systems and components. Yet the ABM space weapons are the main strike components of the U.S. SDI. The Treaty on the Limitation of ABM Systems prohibits the deployment of an anti-ballistic missile defence of the whole of the country's territory. But the U.S. Star Wars plans provide precisely for such a development.

Some U.S. leaders are pretending that the provisions of the joint statement on the observance of the treaty of 1972 "the way it was signed" are non-existent at all. They, in particular, reiterate for everybody to hear that when the large-scale outer space weapons system is tested and ready, the USA will not hesitate to deploy it. The Western observers stress that the statements by the American leaders "produce a dual impression". On the one hand, they said that they would remain committed to the ABM Treaty. On the other hand, they do not conceal that they interpret its provisions from the positions of the Star Wars programme.

Over the recent seven years, the history of arms control has abounded in examples of the refusal of the United States to abide by the treaties as a whole and casuistic interpretations of the agreements still in effect.

The continuation of that tendency of "a light-minded attitude" on the part of the USA to the commitments undertaken may undermine the turn which has manifested itself in the process of disarmament, in the first place as regards a cut in the strategic offensive weapons.

Binary CW 'Contradicting' Geneva Talks
LD291601 Moscow TASS in English 1521 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 29 TASS—A Soviet Foreign Ministry expert on chemical weapons today described the production of binary munitions in the United States as contradicting the significant progress made at Geneva talks for banning chemical weapons and the understandings on a chemical weapons ban reached by Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan at their Washington summit.

Expert Sergey Batsanov was speaking at a briefing for Soviet and foreign correspondents at the ministry's Press Center.

"The Soviet stocks of chemical weapons do not exceed 50,000 tons. This is out of all comparison with the obviously exaggerated figures mentioned in the United States these days," He said.

"Besides, all the Soviet chemical weapons are in Soviet territory, while the United States deploys its chemical warfare agents in other countries, in particular the Federal Republic of Germany, in the immediate proximity of the borders of socialist nations," he added.

While condemning the U.S. militarist action, the Soviet Union had taken a constructive step promoting openness and building trust, by being the first to declare the quantitative parameters of its chemical weapons arsenal, Batsanov said.

Before that no country, including the United States, had disclosed the size of its stocks, he added.

The Soviet expert stressed in conclusion that "the USSR has acted and will continue to act energetically and perseveringly at the talks for prohibiting chemical weapons, pressing for an early preparation of a convention on a general and complete elimination of all chemical weapons without exception."

"Along with preparing a treaty on 50-percent cuts in strategic offensive arms in the context of continued compliance with the ABM Treaty, the signing of such a convention is now a priority in the on-going process of real disarmament started by the Soviet-U.S. INF (Intermediate-range Nuclear Force) Treaty," Batsanov said.

'Obstruction' of Disarmament Progress Viewed

PM301511 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Dec 87 Second Edition p 3

[Lieutenant Colonel Yu. Soldatenko article: "The Forces Applying the Brakes, or How People in the West Are Trying To Obstruct Nuclear Disarmament"]

[Text] The results of the Washington summit meeting conclusively demonstrated the decisive importance of the new political thinking at the present stage of the development of international relations. The Soviet-U.S. Joint Summit Statement emphasizes again that the leaders of the Soviet Union and the United States will continue to be guided by their solemnly proclaimed belief that a nuclear war must never be fought and cannot be won. They are firmly resolved to prevent any war between the USSR and the United States, be it nuclear or conventional. They will never pursue military superiority.

The agreement, thanks to which two classes of nuclear systems will be for the first time withdrawn and eliminated from the territory of nine states at once, was an exceptionally important contribution to the building of a safer world at a period when mankind is preparing to cross into the 3d millennium. The historic treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, which was signed 8 December 1987, proved once more to the whole of mankind the viability and feasibility of the program for the elimination of nuclear weapons on the planet by the year 2000, which was put forward by the Soviet Union 15 January 1986. This requires the goodwill of states, realism in international affairs, and mutual trust.

Yet further proof of the feasibility and possibility of creating a nuclear-free and safer world on our planet is provided by the fact that, for the first time in world history, two powers have reached accord on the mutual elimination of certain types of weapons as a result of talks. In the course of these talks the USSR and the United States learned to display readiness to consider each other's interests and to find compromises in balancing their own and others' interests.

But when old views are being demolished, there is inevitably growing resistance by those who link their political and material prosperity to these views. Consequently, and despite the fact that Washington marked the beginning of a new stage in the actual process of nuclear disarmament, certain forces in the West, just like before, are stubbornly unwilling to accept the prospect of the easing of international tension and refusing, both literally and figuratively, to lay down their arms. They even claim that even though the Treaty on the Elimination of Soviet and U.S. Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles bears the signature of the incumbent U.S. President, this document will never be implemented. Even if it were to be ratified by the U.S. Senate, this would supposedly happen only after the Soviet Union has met certain conditions.

By such conditions they mean primarily the elimination of some imaginary "imbalance" supposedly existing in terms of conventional arms between the Warsaw Pact states and NATO. It is claimed that, having concluded an agreement on intermediate-range missiles with the USSR, the United States has fallen into "a trap set by the Soviets" and has "slid down the slope" into "strategic instability." The United States' NATO allies are supposedly downright "defenseless" in the face of "the Reds' threefold superiority" in conventional arms. Therefore, the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles can be ratified only in the event the Warsaw Pact agrees to unilateral reductions of such arms while NATO continues the modernization of its conventional weapons.

Those who promote such pseudoarguments and conditions are not in the least perturbed by the fact that they are a gross and deliberate distortion of reality. Even authoritative Western organs which have no special sympathies for us admit that approximate equilibrium in conventional arms exists between the Warsaw Pact Organization and NATO. Certain advantages of the Warsaw Pact Organization's Armed Forces in various weapons are compensated by the fact that NATO's Allied Armed Forces outweigh them in other types of combat equipment. For example, the Warsaw Pact Organization enjoys an advantage in tanks, against NATO's advantage in strike aircraft, combat helicopters, and antitank systems.

Conjecture about an alleged "imbalance" between the Warsaw Pact and NATO also appeared in the Western press following the Geneva summit meeting in 1985 and the Reykjavik summit dialogue in 1986, as well as following the recent signing of truly historic Soviet-U.S. documents in Washington. The objective of these crude fabrications is obvious—to try and wreck the ratification by the U.S. Senate of the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles and thus to reverse the incipient process of nuclear disarmament. Because, according to the scheme of the advocates of whipping up the arms race, if there is no elimination of the nuclear systems in question, not only the USSR and the United States but also other states will lose faith in the effectiveness of innovative approaches toward the solution of international problems and will accept the idea that it is impossible to ensure a peaceful future for mankind without nuclear weapons. And, just like before, they will strive to acquire a "bigger stick"—to the benefit of the military-industrial complex bosses.

In order to wreck the ratification of the Soviet-U.S. treaty, its adversaries are examining the possibilities of inventing all sorts of unacceptable amendments to it.

Wallop, one of the conservative leaders in the Senate, bluntly declared that the senators ought to look into the inclusion into the text of the treaty of provisions which would offer the United States an opportunity to denounce the agreement on the elimination of nuclear missiles. To put it more simply, an opportunity to trample it at any given time on, let us assume, the fabricated pretext of "the discovery of serious breaches of the treaty by the USSR."

At the same time, obstacles are being raised in advance across the path which could lead to a 50% reduction of USSR and U.S. strategic offensive arms. There is no other way to perceive the development [razrabotka] of new types of nuclear arms being furiously conducted on the Pentagon's orders, including, according to Western press reports, the creation [sozdaniye] of longer-range air- and sea-launched cruise missiles. Like, for example, the ALCM [air-launched cruise missile] second generation cruise missiles designed to deliver high-accuracy strikes against small-size strongly-defended targets at a distance of almost 4,500 km. The missile design incorporates the "Stealth" technology which should help the new U.S. strategic nuclear weapons to reach their targets undetected. According to data leaked to the Western press, the Pentagon is planning to start fitting strategic bombers with ALCM [air-launced cruise missile] cruise missiles already in 1989. Up to 1,500 missiles of this type are planned to be manufactured to arm the B-1B and B-52H aircraft.

It is also worth noting how the U.S. military-political leadership intends to "update" plans for the development of, for example, strategic aviation in the wake of a possible reduction of strategic offensive arms. Future plans for the creation [sozdaniye] and procurement of the latest weapon systems and combat equipment remain unchanged. Reductions of strategic offensive arms are envisaged to involve the decommissioning of only obsolete arms. In other words, in circumvention of the conditions of a possible reduction of strategic offensive arms, it is planned not to destroy but to "change the appearance" of these arms in advance. For example, more than 150 bombers fitted with cruise missiles are to be re-equipped for action with conventional strike systems in the interests of naval and general purpose forces, as people in the United States say, in "the European theater of war."

These are facts. They offer eloquent proof: The propaganda noise raised in the West around the Soviet-U.S. treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles pursues the goal of substantiating some imaginary right of the United States and NATO to build up their nuclear might. And at the same time to gain the monopoly right of qualitative improvement and buildup of conventional arms. All this, of course, cannot fail to complicate mankind's forceful advance toward nuclear disarmament and normalization of the international situation.

Envoys Brief Foreign Leaders on Summit
PM301222 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Dec 87 Second Edition p 4

[Unattributed report: "Meetings With Representatives of the Soviet Leadership"]

[Text] The meetings between special representatives of the Soviet leadership and heads of state and government, foreign ministers, and prominent state and political figures from foreign countries and international organizations, during which the results of the Soviet-American summit meeting are being discussed in detail, are coming to a close. The conversations have shown that the signing of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles in Washington is everywhere regarded as a historic event, as this will be the first real elimination of two classes of Soviet and American nuclear arms with the strictest verification on both sides. Despite certain difficulties and differences that still remain, the results of the Washington talks and the formulas evolved show that there is potential for finding new, mutually acceptable solutions and a way to practical accords. The people the Soviet representatives spoke with are in favor of an even deeper dialogue between the USSR and the United States.

Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party (KPRP) Central Committee and chairman of the PRK State Council, received B.N. Chaplin, USSR deputy foreign minister. Chea Sim, Say Phuthang, Bou Thang, Mat Ly, and Ney Pena, members of the KPRP Central Committee Politburo, took part in the meeting.

The Cambodian leader said that the KPRP Central Committee and the PRK Government welcome and ardently approve of the signing of the Soviet-American Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles, which represents an important step in the task of eliminating all nuclear weapons and removing the threat of nuclear war. This treaty is the result of the Soviet Government's consistent, peace-loving foreign policy and its active struggle to preserve peace throughout the world. The Soviet-American accord will galvanize the world trend toward resolving conflicts through negotiation and open a new page in the history of mankind, when concern for people's welfare comes first. Heng Samrin said that the KPRP will consistently implement a policy to bring about national reconciliation in the country and achieve a political settlement in order to improve the situation in Southeast Asia. We hope, he noted, that the agreements reached in Washington will have a positive impact on the situation in the Asian and Pacific region.

In New York Yu.V. Dubinin, member of the Soviet delegation at the Soviet-American summit meeting and Soviet ambassador to the United States, had a conversation with Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations.

Perez de Cuellar said that he regards the Soviet side's briefing him on such a major event in world politics as M.S. Gorbachev's visit to the United States as further evidence of the emphatic importance the Soviet Union attaches to UN activity. This action reflects the Soviet Union's policy of glasnost in its approach to solving key international problems. The UN leadership, Perez de Cuellar said, is completely unanimous in its assessment of the meeting in Washington as one of great significance for the development of international affairs. The international community cannot fail to welcome the signing of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles—the first real nuclear disarmament measure in history, which gives an added boost to UN activity. Perez de Cuellar highly appraised the strict system of monitoring and verification measures designed for the treaty, which he described as an outstanding achievement. The UN secretary general voiced his satisfaction with the recent enhancement of the role played by the Security Council, which is an important factor in the search for practical solutions to conflict situations throughout the world. Perez de Cuellar welcomed the positive changes in Soviet-American relations, spoke in favor of even deeper Soviet-American dialogue, and wished the Soviet Union and the United States success in their task of drawing up a new treaty to reduce the two countries' nuclear arsenals.

In Harare Robert Mugabe, chairman of the Nonaligned Movement and Zimbabwean prime minister, received A.Yu. Urnov, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department. He had meetings with M. Nyagumbo, D. Mutasa, and N. Shamuyarira, members of the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) Politburo, and other party and state figures. On behalf of the nonaligned countries, R. Mugabe welcomed the results of the talks in Washington and especially the signing of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles. He stressed that, as an influential force, the Nonaligned Movement will continue to support initiatives aimed at achieving disarmament. R. Mugabe highly appraised the principled stand taken by the Soviet Union and the purposeful efforts of M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in the task of ensuring peace and removing the threat of nuclear war.

Argentine President R. Alfonsin received V.G. Komplektov, USSR deputy foreign minister. D. Caputo, Argentine foreign minister, took part in the conversation. The Argentine leaders were greatly interested to hear the Soviet side's assessment of the results of the talks between M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and U.S. President R. Reagan. They highly appraised the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles signed during the talks, and expressed the hope that the progress made so far in the discussion of the problem of radically reducing strategic nuclear weapons will lead to practical steps to radically reduce the nuclear threat, and that consistent progress will be made in nuclear disarmament.

and the limitation and reduction of other arms. In this connection R. Alfonsin also underlined the importance of multilateral efforts within the framework of the United Nations, the Geneva Disarmament Conference, the "Initiative of Six Heads of State," and other forums. In his opinion, the results of the Soviet-American summit meeting create favorable preconditions for this.

Special envoy I.Yu. Andropov had conversations in Lisbon with Portuguese President M. Soares, President of the Assembly of the Republic (parliament) V. Crespo, and Foreign Minister J. de Deus Pinheiro. The Portuguese leaders spoke in support of the Soviet-American accords.

M. Soares described the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles as "a historic document that will begin a new era in the process of detente in Europe and the rest of the world." V. Crespo assessed the treaty as "a very promising breakthrough in the hitherto closed system of nuclear arms in favor of their physical elimination." It was also said that Lisbon welcomes the principled accords reached in Washington regarding strategic offensive arms. The Portuguese side expressed interest in the successful continuation of Soviet-American dialogue in the disarmament sphere, stressing that Portugal is prepared to contribute to this dialogue as far as possible by acting realistically and reasonably.

In a conversation with I. Yu. Andropov in Madrid, Spanish Foreign Minister F. Fernandez-Ordonez said that Spain unanimously supports the conclusion of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles. The Soviet-American accord must become the starting point in a broad process of strengthening international security, trust, and cooperation. Madrid is sure, the minister said, that the treaty signed in Washington must result in a subsequent dynamic reduction in all arms rather than an arms buildup. The Spanish side also said that Spain's approach to the further development of the disarmament and cooperation process will be constructive and exacting.

'A.S. Jallud, member of the revolutionary Libyan leadership, received special envoy M.D. Sytenko. On behalf of the Libyan leadership 'A.S. Jallud thanked the Soviet leadership for its information on the results of the Soviet-american summit meeting in Washington.

In Baghdad Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, had a conversation with M.D. Sytenko during which he voiced his full support for the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles, noting the principled stand taken by the Soviet Union on issues concerning the solution of regional conflicts.

In a conversation with V.P. Starodubov, section head in the CPSU Central Committee International Department, Icelandic Prime Minister T. Palsson and Foreign Minister S. Hermannsson welcomed the signing of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles and voiced support for the process of real disarmament. T. Palsson voiced particular satisfaction that the document reflected the "spirit of Reykjavik." The Icelandic leaders stressed the importance of future accords between the Soviet Union and the United States in the disarmament sphere.

In Copenhagen V.P. Starodubov was received by S. Jakobsen, president of the Danish Folketing; H. Gottlieb, foreign policy adviser to the prime minister; and T. Rechnagel, head of the Danish Foreign Ministry Political Administration, who described the Soviet-American summit meeting as a historic landmark in world politics. The results of the meeting open up prospects for strengthening strategic stability, solving many central disarmament problems, and create a totally new political and psychological atmosphere in the world. According to the Danish side, further steps to develop the results of the Washington meeting will be far from easy but the main point is not to deviate from the chosen path or slacken the pace. In the context of resolving the task of a 50% reduction in Soviet and American strategic nuclear arms, the Danish representatives noted the importance of the 1972 ABM Treaty as the cornerstone of the disarmament process.

In New York Yu.V. Dubinin, Soviet ambassador to the United States, had a conversation with Australian Foreign Minister W. Hayden. The minister said that Australia welcomes the results of M.S. Gorbachev's visit to the United States and appreciates the importance of improving Soviet-American relations in the context of the international climate as a whole. He is sure that the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles has great, positive potential to enhance the level of security on a global scale. He said he is confident that this agreement will eventually be ratified by the U.S. Senate. During the conversation W. Hayden displayed an interest in the present state of the ABM problem, noting the importance of the Soviet Union and the United States reaching an accord on this issue to the liking of both sides. He understood the importance of observing the ABM Treaty, underlining the need to ensure full clarity in the interpretation of its provisions in the course of future negotiations.

Indonesian Foreign Minister M. Kusumaatmadja received V.M. Nikiforov, USSR deputy foreign minister, in Jakarta. During their conversation on the results of the Soviet-American summit meeting the minister noted that Indonesia welcomes the signing of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles, describing the accords reached in Washington as real progress toward genuine peace. This trend, he stressed, will be increasingly difficult to restrain because the peoples want peace and progress. The minister expressed the hope that the beginning of the new era in relations between the two powers will benefit the whole of mankind.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'A.A. Velayati noted during a meeting in Tehran with Yu.K. Alekseyev, head of the USSR Foreign Ministry Middle Eastern Countries Department, that Iran welcomes the conclusion of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles and hopes that this will be followed by more steps leading to the total elimination of nuclear arms throughout the world. The Iranian side said that progress in disarmament has great significance for developing countries, which feel the burden of the continuing arms race very acutely.

H. Blix, general director of the IAEA, described the Washington accords in a conversation with special envoy O.A. Grinevskiy, who called on him in Vienna, as a triumph of common sense, emphasizing that they open up broad opportunities in various spheres of international life. H. Blix linked the process of nuclear disarmament that has now begun with the possibility of using the nuclear materials thereby made available for civilian purposes only, in particular for the nuclear power needs of developing countries.

Foreign Ministry's Tarasov Briefs Arab Envoys

*LD3013*41 Moscow TASS in English 1322 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] Moscow December 30 TASS—"The issue of settling regional conflicts should be made an integral part of a comprehensive system of international peace and security," Gennadiy Tarasov, deputy head of the Directorate for Middle East and North Africa of the USSR Foreign Ministry, said here today.

He spoke at a briefing organized by the Foreign Ministry Information Directorate for representatives of the mass media of Arab countries accredited in Moscow. The topic was the Washington summit between General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed the need for more vigorous international efforts to settling regional conflicts which were a factor of destabilization.

"The time limit for settling regional conflicts has been exhausted," he observed. "The point at issue is human survival, and all efforts must be directed at establishing a system of international peace and security."

"It is time to resolve the Middle East conflict in a comprehensive way and to enable the Arab people of Palestine to exercise their rights," Tarasov said.

He observed that the Middle East problem, including the key, Palestinian, issue could only be resolved through collective effort within the framework of an international conference.

It was said at the briefing that the earliest settlement of the protracted Iran-Iraq conflict was possible only through political means, on the basis of Security Council Resolution 598, adopted this year.

The Soviet Union favoured the earliest implementation of the resolution and backed the view of the need for elaborating further steps within the U.N. framework to translate it fully into life.

Milan Children Send Letter to Reagan, Gorbachev

*LD3021*47 Moscow TASS in English 2110 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] Rome December 30 TASS—The fourth-graders of the G.Marconi primary school in Pero, a suburb of Milan, have addressed a letter to Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and U.S. President Ronald Reagan saying: "We have watched on television and read in the newspapers about your meeting, in whose course you adopted the important decision to start the scrapping of a certain part of your nuclear arsenals. After that we sighed with relief, since we believe that all types of weapons are dangerous and useless, constitute a source of violence, death, destruction and do only evil."

We are happy, the letter goes on to say, that you have put forward such an initiative. But we also wish to tell you that this is not enough. To ensure real peace it is necessary to destroy all types of weapons. What you have done is an important step on the way to peace which concerns not only the current, but also the future generations. Life shall continue and only peace is a guarantee of life, progress and improvement.

The Milan schoolchildren believe that it is better to give aid to the peoples suffering from hunger and living in poverty and misery than waste funds on weapons which are capable of destroying the whole world. "We all wish for and opt only for peace and hope that this wish will come true."

The authors of the letter suggest that the leaders of the two biggest powers should continue their meetings, hold talks, resolve important problems and sign agreements. "Show a good example, and, perhaps, the belligerents will understand today that it is possible to resolve problems only through peace."

In conclusion the little Italians wished Mikhail Gorbachev, Ronald Reagan, their families, the Soviet and American people a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Association Expresses Satisfaction With UN

*LD3019*34 Moscow TASS in English 1817 GMT 30 Dec 87*

[Text] Moscow December 30 (TASS)—The USSR-UN Association has issued a statement expressing profound satisfaction with the main results of the 42nd session of

the U.N. General Assembly and adoption of a number of important documents aimed at the early solution of pressing tasks which face the world community.

The Soviet public, the statement says, received with particular satisfaction the adoption by the U.N. General Assembly of the declaration on intensifying the efficiency of the principle of renunciation of the threat of force or its use in international relations. The unanimous approval of this document, which is of great political significance, was possible owing to the spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation between the U.N. member states.

The association called upon public movements and organisations which support the U.N. activities to comprehensively promote realization of positive decisions of the General Assembly session in the sphere of preservation and consolidation of international peace and security nd thereby make their contribution to establishing a non-violent and nuclear-free world.

Cooperative Approach to Conflicts Urged

PM311248 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Dec 87 Morning Edition p 5

[D. Volskiy commentary under the rubric "Problems and Views": "In the Same Boat: About Regional Conflicts and Global Security"]

[Text] "During the 42 years that have elapsed since World War II, 12 million people have died in 145 regional wars, and none of them through the use of nuclear weapons," a U.S. journalist recalled at a recent White House press conference. There are other figures that mention up to 200 such conflicts and up to 20 million dead. It is not exactly easy to calculate accurately the number of those killed in the marshes on the Iran-Iraq border or the streets of Beirut, is it? But one thing is clear, the sad figures are mounting.

It is no good consoling ourselves with the fact that nuclear weapons are not involved. In East Asia alone, in situations of this kind the Americans were ready to resort to these weapons at least three times in the fifties and sixties. And now? Now everything in the world is interlinked much more closely than it has ever been before. Any purely local armed clash somewhere in the jungle or the desert can cause a chain reaction threatening international security.

However, the U.S. approach to regional conflicts still lacks realism. Is it not indicative, for instance, that in response to the peace plan for Central America elaborated in Guatemala by the presidents of five countries of the region, the United States let it be known that it has no intention of giving up support for the Nicaraguan contras?

This chain has come to a head, as it were, in the dangerous situation in the Persian Gulf created by the 7-year Iran-Iraq war and the dispatch to the Gulf of a major U.S. Navy squadron backed by other NATO countries.

The London newspaper THE INDEPENDENT has noted an interesting detail. It appears that "U.S. diplomats are reacting with alarm to the display of flexibility on the part of Tehran" in the question of settling the military conflict in the Persian Gulf.

Is this "alarm" not strange? After all, if Baghdad is ready to end the war, it is precisely flexibility from Tehran that the world community is waiting for. Washington itself has said so more than once.

Yet, in these circumstances, contrary to all logic, influential circles in Washington appear to be giving preference to a destructive gambling on force over constructive diplomacy, and that despite the fact that practical experience has shown this only serves to complicate the regional situation still further.

What is the reason for this paradox? It is above all the fact, I believe, that it is not a question of an isolated political trend, but of a multiple-pronged course pursued by means of various methods in all conflict situations where the United States is seeking to gain an "advantage." The objective being either to establish or tighten U.S. control over a given area, to defeat forces friendly to the Soviet Union, and, where possible, to bring U.S. military positions closer to the Soviet borders.

It is also possible to hear the following argument: Pressure brought to bear in regional conflicts will make the USSR "more ready to compromise" on questions of a broader, global nature. It is hardly necessary to say that such calculations are as illusory as they are incompatible with international security. The confrontational approach to regional conflicts, turning them into an object of rivalry between the USSR and the United States—all this is fraught with increasing risks.

On the other hand, other options do exist. Take for instance the prospects of a settlement in the Persian Gulf area. There is the well known Security Council Resolution 598 that calls for collective efforts to this end on the part of the international community. Furthermore, extinguishing the flashpoint of tension in this region could be important not only as an end in itself. According to many Western observers, this could create a precedent for coordinated action that could be of assistance in the settlement of other regional conflicts, such as in the Near East, for instance, or around Afghanistan, since the events that are taking place there are connected by invisible threads, as it were, with what is happening in the Gulf.

This is all the more true since certain responsible Washington figures appear to be aware of this. Thus U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Whitehead said back in August of this year: "Without any doubt, the competition between the Soviets and the Americans will continue. Since profound local hostility is frequently at the root of regional conflicts, it is possible that wars will continue to be waged in the future. However, the United States and the USSR are capable of acting more effectively in seeking to prevent or end these conflicts and contributing to the firm establishment of conditions in which developing countries can find their place in the present-day world and make a productive contribution."

it is necessary not to hamper these countries in this quest. Above all, peoples' right to choose their paths and forms of development for themselves must be respected.

This is a key, fundamental point, M.S. Gorbachev noted during his official visit to the United States. "We," he declared at the press conference in Washington, "drew attention to the need to work out a joint approach to the solution of regional conflicts from the viewpoint that we are now witnessing an indisputable desire on the part of the world community to resolve existing regional conflicts by political means."

Various states and governments have their political sympathies and antipathies. However, emotions are one thing, and international law and order is something quite different. Attempts to interfere in states' internal affairs will lead to no good and will only intensify the possibility of the outbreak of yet another conflict, and that even if people are guided in their actions by the best of intentions. The creation of a favorable external atmosphere and the application of the principles of equality rather than interference— these are the preconditions for the solution of the most complex of problems.

As for the settlement of interstate conflicts, it goes without saying that the international community must not shirk its responsibility. Its contribution to this cause is part and parcel of the creation of a system of universal security. The political mechanism of the United Nations could play an important role here. UN military observers and the UN peace-keeping force could be used more widely. It is indicative in this context that the Soviet idea to establish a UN force in the Persian Gulf evoked interest in the Western press and even in the U.S. press.

No one—and that includes local forces—can be freed from responsibility for the situation in a given area of the world. The new thinking must be espoused by all. It cannot be replaced either by the Koran or the Bible. Because we are now all in the same boat, as it were, looking for shelter from the storm. This boat could be rocked just as easily by the Israeli "Jericho" rocket (especially if they try to fit it with a nuclear warhead) as by mines laid in the Persian Gulf, or such an evil of the late 20th century as terrorism and hostage-taking. It cannot but be a cause for concern that in Sri Lanka both Tamils and Sinhalese were being killed even after the conclusion of a settlement agreement, or that in Lebanon a whole generation has grown up which is more used holding a machinegun than a pen." Violence is infectious, especially where people's social and national rights are trampled underfoot.

Therefore there is no alternative to joint efforts to settle and root out regional conflicts if mankind wants to achieve genuine comprehensive security and lasting peace.

Correction to Officials Discuss Arms, Other Issues

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Officials Discuss Arms, Other Issues," published in the 29 December Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page 11:

page 14, column two, paragraph eight, last sentence: ...Foreign Relations Committee, the Intelligence Committee and—what's the third committee,... (correcting committee name)

United States & Canada

Zhukov Notes Need To Build on Summit 'Success'

PM301251 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Dec 87 Second Edition p 4

[Political Observer Yuriy Zhukov article: "Challenge of the Time"]

[Excerpts] Addressing the 11 December meeting of the Warsaw Pact states' leaders, M.S. Gorbachev reminded them: "Comrades, people throughout the world are currently preparing to see out the old year and see in the new one, 1988. This is how people are—at this time everyone wants to believe that the new year will be better than the old one. The treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles is a good, great New Year's gift for all the peoples. The realization of the hopes of many millions of people in the world largely depends on the activity of our parties and the policies of our states, and we will work persistently for this."

Yes, people throughout the world are now in festive mood, completing the final preparations to greet the new year. They have been encouraged by the priceless gift that mankind has received as the result of a strenuous struggle which lasted almost 7 years. [passage omitted]

Why is this success welcomed so warmly throughout the world? Because people are tired of eternal tension. Because they are oppressed by the sense of unpredictability and uncertainty about tomorrow. Because they are realizing increasingly clearly that it is time to put a stop to brinkmanship, for otherwise death faces everyone! [passage omitted]

What is preventing us and the Americans from moving more quickly toward each other? Why are opponents of accords with the Soviet Union once again raising their heads in Washington? Why are people there once again trying to cast doubt on the need for nuclear disarmament and for arms reduction in general? It seems to me that when old views are being broken, there is inevitably increased resistance from those who associate their political and material well-being with them and who, possessing strong potential, are capable of slowing down an unacceptable course of events for them.

See how far matters have gone! Speaking on television on the morning of 11 December, U.S. Secretary of State G. Shultz suddenly declared for all to hear that the mass media had totally ignored his statement in which he had "tried to describe what is happening now, the reasons for this, and what this means for us."

"I think you will now have an opportunity to publish that statement," a correspondent said. But Shultz retorted with irony: "I should have stamped it 'top secret,' and perhaps someone would have done something. It was not even reported in the newspapers. No one is interested (?) in such things. But I believe that in the future the world will change under the impact of natural causes and will be different both for the United States and for the Soviet Union."

Obviously polemicizing with those who stubbornly refuse to draw the necessary conclusions from the changing international situation, G. Shultz went on to say: "As I already said in my toast yesterday (at the State Department luncheon in M.S. Gorbachev's honor), we must drop the habit of turning our face to the past and our back on the future and turn around, look to the future, try to understand it, and build our actions on this basis. Of course, no one knows the future, but it is possible to see some signs. I believe that it will undoubtedly be different, and we must all realize this."

Of course, such a realistic approach could only be welcomed. But I have read reports on statements by the same G. Shultz during the visits which he made to West European capitals after the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting and have been struck by the fact that notes taken from the old arsenal were clearly heard in them.

What is the worth, for example, of this formula, which I cite from his article published in the Italian newspaper LA STAMPA 15 December: "All talks with the Soviet Union should be conducted from a position of strength." The same notes are now being heard again in statements by other representatives of the U.S. Administration. This clearly shows that it is still too early to speak of a fundamental turning point in Soviet-U.S. relations.

Clearly, those who dislike the accords reached at the Washington meeting are very strong on the other side of the ocean if the U.S. secretary of state, who only yesterday was urging people to "drop the habit of turning their face to the past and their back on the future," is today himself advocating a return to the "position of strength" policy. Those who work in the wings of U.S. foreign policy have clearly been frightened by the present development of relations with the USSR and, still more, by the Americans' growing sympathies toward us. It is no coincidence that masters of "psychological warfare" are now going all out to mount a new campaign of anti-Sovietism.

The Soviet leader's appeal addressed to the world community 14 December and, above all, to the peoples of the USSR and the United States is acquiring ever greater significance—to redouble efforts to preserve the first shoot of nuclear disarmament which has come up through the thick concrete layers of prejudices and stereotypes of hostility.

We do not conceal the profound disagreements separating our countries' positions on fundamental international problems. It is all the more important, not engaging in squabbling and carping of various kinds, to continue the constructive dialogue and patiently seek to resolve difficult but urgent problems.

"...History itself has ordained that you and I have no escape from each other," M.S. Gorbachev said with his characteristic straightforwardness at the 10 December meeting with U.S. businessmen in Washington. "Perhaps you would like to rid yourselves of the Soviet Union, so that it does not hinder you. Perhaps some of us want to rid ourselves of America, so that it does not hinder us, but I think it is unrealistic to think like that."

Where, then, is the way out? Common sense suggests the way out: It is necessary, at last, to accept the challenge of the time and, developing the first real success achieved in Washington, go further, abandoning attempts to return to the failed "position of strength" policy and proceeding to cooperation, increasingly effective cooperation.

The Soviet side will not hold matters up, although we too will, of course, have some work to do, freeing ourselves from the suspicions, fears, and prejudices which ate into our soul over the "cold war" years and were dictated by mistrust of our transatlantic partners. But this is not such an insurmountable matter as it might at first seem. For not even during the worst times did our political propaganda stoop to primitive chauvinism.

The very near future will show how things stand on the U.S. side. While saying 8 December that our disagreements are "an unpleasant reality," President Reagan still said that he sees ahead "the possibility of moving from confrontation to cooperation." That opportunity is being opened up now that the U.S. Senate and the USSR Supreme Soviet are faced with ratifying the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Nuclear Missiles.

The sooner and more successfully this concluding operation is carried out, after which the treaty will be validated, the more the peoples' hopes that the threat of mankind's nuclear death will finally be removed will be strengthened.

Normalization of Ties Seen as 'Top Priority'

LD310952 Moscow TASS in English 0934 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 31 TASS—"There are grounds to claim that, if cooperation between the powers of the anti-fascist coalition had continued in the postwar period, which was advocated by the Soviet Union, the course of the world development could have been another one, peoples could have been saved from the burdensome arms race and the threat of a nuclear war," writes in PRAVDA its Political Analyst Vitaliy Korionov today.

Now, the analyst notes, "there is a chance to reverse developments in a direction conforming to vital interests of peoples. The chance must not be lost. Time imperatively necessitates to establish and develop mutual understanding and cooperation between all countries, and top priority importance of normalizing Soviet-American relations in this process is self-evident". Vitaliy Korionov writes that the analysis of the history of Soviet-American relations shows "both great potentialities in Soviet-American relations and common responsibility for a sphere in which these potentialities will be used". "The most rational way is through common deeds towards confidence, its creation, strengthening and development," the analyst believes.

He writes that "the establishment of confidence is not a divine gift. It can be reached only through joint and sincere efforts of all parties. A rejection of prejudices of the past and especially of propaganda sterotypes generated by the cold war is an indispensable condition in this case. "A mutual rejection of negative stereotypes and destruction of 'the image of enemy' is one of necessary steps towards a better international situation and a replacement of accumulated unjustified accusations with relations of mutual understanding and cooperation."

By signing the Treaty on Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles, PRAVDA analyst writes in conclusion, the USSR and the USA "have made a truly historic step towards a nuclear-free world. They proved by their practical deeds that our states are capable of shouldering lofty responsibility at turning points of history. Our common duty to our peoples and to all mankind is to be at a high level of these demands".

Powell Cited on Soviet Position on SDI

LD301407 Moscow TASS in English 1323 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Washington December 30 TASS—The deputy assistant to the President for national security affairs has admitted that allegations by some high-ranking officials that the USSR changed its position on the SDI programme after the summit meeting in Washington were not correct.

General Colin Powell refuted these statements in a letter to Democratic Senator Carl Levin, which was distributed on Tuesday. The President's deputy assistant said that the Soviet Union's position was explained to President Reagan during the Washington talks and included in the joint statement of the sides on the results of the meeting. The document points out that the Soviet Union was ready to halve the strategic offensive weapons on condition the ABM Treaty was observed as signed in 1972. Nevertheless, attempts are being made in the USA to allege that differences on this issue were removed and that the USSR will not be opposed to the SDI programme, including its practical implementation.

Congress Refuses Funds for Missile Launchers

LD301506 Moscow TASS in English 1446 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Washington December 30 TASS—In view of the signing of the Soviet-American treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles the U.S. Congress has refused

to fund the plans for the construction of new launchers for American internediate and shorter-range missiles in a number of West European countries. The appropriations on these aims running into many millions have been excluded from the expenditures of the federal budget for 1988 fiscal year, whose draft was endorsed on the Capitol Hill after a long bickering between the White House and the American law-makers.

The report issued on Tuesday by the Senate-House Conference Committee says that in connection with the signing of the Soviet-American Treaty on the Elimination of the Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles there will be no need after ratification to build new launchers for missiles. As the AP agency said, the decision taken on the Capitol Hill obviously mirrors the confidence of the American law-makers that the hearings to be held in the U.S. Senate on the treaty will result in its ratification.

The decision was also taken on the Capitol Hill to put off the appropriation of funds on the earlier planned deployment of new American intermediate- and shorter-range missiles in Western Europe. The Pentagon has been requested to report to the Congress before July 1, next year how the U.S. Defence Department intends to use in the future the bases in Europe where the U.S. nuclear tipped intermediate- and shorter-range missile are now deployed.

Development of New Nuclear Warhead Noted

LD301203 Moscow TASS in English 1159 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Washington December 30 TASS—The U.S. Air Force "is working feverishly, and secretly, on a new nuclear warhead" to maximise the chance of hitting underground hard targets, THE WASHINGTON POST has reported.

The warhead will burrow deep into the earth and explode at a preset depth.

It is being developed by Lockheed and the General Electric, as well as by the Department of Energy which is in charge of nuclear programmes.

Under the contract, the companies are to produce prototypes of these warheads by mid-1988, the newspaper said.

"American nuclear weapons designers believe the new warheads could be fitted on U.S. weapons by the mid-1990s," THE WASHINGTON POST said.

New Thinking 'Necessary' in Trade, Economics

LD301503 Moscow TASS in English 1407 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Interview with Sergey Medvedkov, "head of a sector of the Institute of U.S. and Canadian Studies" of the Academy of Sciences, by TASS correspondent Mikhail Svetlichniy]

[Text] Moscow December 30 TASS—"The sprouts of the new thinking in international affairs are already manifest in the most sensitive military-political sphere of East-West relations. It is necessary that they also manifest themselves more actively in the trade-and-economic field which in its very essence is to serve creative purposes, and not destructive ones", said Sergey Medvedkov, head of a sector of the Institute of U.S. and Canadian Studies of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

"To secure a tangible progress in this field is one of priorities within the framework of the concept of a comprehensive system of peace and international security, the concept which socialist countries have suggested to the international community," the Soviet expert said today in an interview with TASS correspondent Mikhail Svetlichniy.

"These countries, the Soviet Union, in particular, regard themselves as part of the world economy, the participation in which should expedite a restructuring of the economic mechanism", Sergey Medvedkov said. "It is precisely with these intentions that the Soviet Union seeks to join in the activities of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and other authoritative international economic organizations, to establish contacts with the European Economic Community and other regional economic groups", he emphasized.

"These steps and the idea of the primacy of law and justice are the basis of a comprehensive system of peace and international security. Only they can lead to a radical restructuring of foreign economic relations. Of course, it is the question of such steps which are not aimed at deliberately infringing the legitimate economic interests of any member the international community".

"Guarantees for the security of the Soviet Union's trading-and-economic partners are inherent in the new law on joint-venture enterprises which are being established in the economy of our country" the Soviet expert emphasized. "They are also confirmed by the years-long practice of the Soviet Union's trade-and-economic relations with foreign countries".

"The Soviet Union is economically interested in the maintenance of strong trade-and-economic contacts with foreign countries, and in the utilization of the achievements in science, technology and production on a mutually benificial basis".

"The process of restructuring in the Soviet Union in the economic sphere, in its turn, opens up new markets, capital investment spheres, sources of equipment and technology and other economic resources for foreign countries and enterprises".

However, Sergey Medvedkov is of the opinion that it will be difficult to utilize this potential through foreign economic relations if the "enemy image" prevails in the approaches by the countries of East and West to mutual relations.

"The challenge posed to the international community by the internationalization of economic life, by the global nature of the new spiral of scientific and technological revolution, and by the broadening gap between rich and poor countries can be met only in the conditions of a non-violent world. A comprehensive system of international security, including its economic aspects, is turning into an imperative of international order," the Soviet expert said.

Ivanov Comments on U.S. Economic Problems

LD301957 Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Western financial and economic groups express fears that the upheavals on the stockmarkets this past year may become permanent and spark a new economic crisis. Our commentary has been prepared by Viktor Ivanov. This is what he writes:[passage omitted]

As for the reasons for the stockmarket upheavals, experts seem to agree that the main one is America's colossal budget deficit, which has cast doubts on the viability of the nation's economy and finances. The deficit in turn stems from the policy of the present administration of combining tax privileges for big business with tremendous government spending, largely for military purposes. To make up the difference between revenue and expenditure, the administration has relied on foreign investment, which it gets by offering high interest rates.

But this is tantamount to living on credit. In addition, there are such spinoffs from this policy of the administration as economic stagnation in the United States, and a decline in its competitiveness on world markets. The trade deficit too has grown along with the budget deficit, making the United States the world's leading debtor nation.

The easiest way out of the situation appeared to be to lower the rate of the United States dollar against other currencies, so as to make U.S. goods cheaper on foreign markets. This also helps to attract new foreign investors. But since this process strikes at the interests of America's partners, the seven leading Western nations signed an agreement in Louvre last February that was to prevent a further slide of the dollar. [passage omitted]

There was no change in the general tendency of the American dollar to fall. A number of factors are said to explain this. One is the unwillingness of the Federal Reserve System of the United States to give genuine support to the dollar and thereby stabilize it. The administration has confined itself to soothing statements that only fuel the skepticism of the business community. The stock markets believe the United States is not interested in supporting the dollar because of the competititon on world markets, and also because elections are in the offing. Hence the pessimistic forecasts.

'Spreading False Information' About Nicaragua

LD301619 Moscow TASS in English 1511 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Washington December 30 TASS—The U.S. Administration is spreading false information about the situation in Nicaragua. This is pointed out in the report on the Reagan administration's policy in the field of human rights in 1987 which was jointly prepared by the public organization Human Rights Watch and the Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights.

Thus President Reagan said that Nicaragua had 10,000 political prisoners. Yet the authors of the report say that this claim does not correspond to fact. According to the available information, they point out, there are 4,500 prisoners, among them 2,000 former soldiers of Somoza dictator responsible for brutal crimes against the people. [as received] Another two thousand are the contras taken prisoner, or those who supported them. President Reagan's attempts at presenting the former Somozistas as fighters for freedom against tyranny look strange at least. We have never heard the U.S. President to describe as political prisoners those who perpetrated crimes in the countries-allies of the USA, the report says.

Biryukov Analyzes U.S.-Japanese Strategy

LD301832 Moscow TASS in English 1736 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 30 (TASS)—By Askold Biryukov, a TASS political news analyst:

The Japanese newspaper AKAHATA has reported today on a considerable increase in the number of calls at the ports of Japan by U.S. nuclear-powered submarines carrying Tomahawk cruise missiles. In the outgoing year, they have called at the ports of Japan 34 times, while last year—22 times, which, as can been seen, is a 50 percent increase. As has been recently learnt, U.S. bombers have sharply stepped up activities in the north-western Pacific, where, as THE DAILY TELEGRAPH said, they are practising an attack against the city of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy on the USSR's Pacific coast. Since the beginning of the outgoing year these aircraft armed with sufficient munitions at least 24 times flew up to the Soviet coast to a distance of 90 miles. This is the first instance when a superpower sent armed bombers against cities of the opposite side.

The facts cited above and similar ones reveal the essence of U.S. strategy in the Asia-Pacific region, an aggressive strategy which has not changed even after life itself posed the question of carrying on efforts for nuclear disarmament, lowering the level of confrontation and implementing the long ripe confidence-building measures, the start for which has been made by the signing of the Soviet-American INF Treaty.

In his recent interview with the Japanese newspaper ASAHI, William Arkin, a prominent American expert in nuclear strategy, pointed out that despite the fact that Washington does not very loudly advocate the new naval strategy of the USA, this strategy—the manoeuvres close to the USSR's territory and the creation of a potential threat to the Soviet Union in peace-time, an attack against the Soviet airforce and naval bases in war-time, remains unchanged. The American expert also lists new trends of that strategy. Thus the U.S. Marines will be assigned to land in the Kuril Islands, Sakhalin, Kamchatka and occupy them. The airforce will have to ensure large-scale air support. The Navy, which is the main force of that strategy, has at its disposal 125 nuclear-tipped Tomahawk missiles which are deployed in 17 surface ships, 26 strike nuclear powered submarines of the Los Angeles class and four sturgeon class submarines. It is precisely these submarines which acting within the framework of the American strategy, ever more often call at the ports of Japan. Nuclear capable F-16 aircraft are also deployed in Japan, strategic B-52 bombers with cruise missiles on board periodically touch down in Okinawa.

Concerned with the prospects of elimination of land-based intermediate and shorter-range missiles, the American military strategists are drawing up plans for a "compensation" for that not only in the European theatre but also globally, including in the Far East. Stake in that is placed first of all on sea and air-based missiles, on the airforce and the missile-carrying subamrines.

In that connection official Tokyo's stand strikes one as bewildering. They in Tokyo welcomed the INF Treaty and even voiced hope that it would be used as an an incentive for an advancement of disarmament. Japan's government circles expressed the intention to prevent in every way possible the unfolding of the nuclear weapons race in the north-western Pacific washing the coasts of Japan. Yet it turns out that they in Tokyo are planning to oppose that in a quite peculiar manner: by increasing their own contribution to the aggressive strategy of the USA. It is in such terms that the question is posed in the report by the Japanese strategic research centre headed by Shin Kanemaru, a prominent figure of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party. The blockade by Japan of three international straits in the Far East—the Tsugaru, La Perouse and Korean straits, it says, will be a contribution to the security of the U.S. Navy which will unfold operations in the area of Japan and on the sea lanes in the Western Pacific and in the Indian Ocean.

The plans of the U.S. and Japanese strategists are fraught with a direct threat to peace and security to the countries of the region. They run counter to the clearly expressed will and hopes of the Japanese and the peoples of other countries that the signing of the INF Treaty will be a starting point in the effort to end the nuclear weapons race, lessen the military confrontation and establish an atmosphere of trust and mutual understanding among nations.

China

PRC Protests U.S. Expulsion of Diplomats

LD311051 Moscow TASS in English 1016 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] Beijing December 31 TASS—The PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs has today made a strong protest against the decision of the U.S. authorities to expel two Chinese diplomats from the USA on a charge of activities incompatible with their diplomatic status.

According to a XINHUA agency report, a spokesman for the PRC Foreign Ministry said, commenting on the statement by a spokesman for the U.S. State Department that two Chinese diplomats had been ordered to leave the United States. He said: "We are strongly protesting against the above-said actions and reserve for ourselves the right to retaliation." He pointed out that the charges made by the U.S. Administration against the Chinese diplomats "are groundless".

Bilateral Chemical Industry Cooperation

OW311108 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1500 GMT 26 Dec 87

[From "Advance on Road of Friendship and Cooperation" program: talk by station observer Vasilyev: "Soviet-Chinese Cooperation in Chemical Industry"]

[Excerpts] Soviet and Chinese chemical industry workers had established ties of cooperation between them as early as in the beginning years of the founding of the People's Republic of China. In those years our country helped China build a total of 11 chemical industry enterprises which between them produced 150,000 metric tons of ammonia water, 250,000 metric tons of sulphuric acid, 150,000 metric tons of nitrogenous fertilizer and 15,000 metric tons of synthetic rubber each year. [passage omitted]

Cooperation between the Soviet Union and China in the chemical industry was resumed recently. A few initial strides in this area have already been made. This came about as a result of the Soviet-Chinese Economic Cooperation Agreement signed in late July 1985. The agreement calls for Soviet assistance to China in building some new and upgrading some old enterprises, including those of the chemical industry. We now ask Comrade (Zuboleskiy), chairman and specialist of the General Economic Aid Administration of the State Committee

for Foreign Economic Relations of the USSR, to give us some specific facts about the current cooperation between Soviet and Chinese chemical industry workers. He is right here with us.

[Brief Russian passage fading into Mandarin translation read by another announcer] Comrade (Zuboleskiy) says: Not long ago at the end of November, 1987, representatives of the All-Union Petrochemical Industry Export Corporation and the Chinese foreign trade and economic relations companies in charge of imports of technologies held talks and signed a contract in Beijing. A plant with an annual capacity of 40,000 metric tons of methyl alcohol will be built at the Harbin Gas Processing Plant with Soviet assistance. According to the signed contract, the All-Union Petrochemical Export Corporation will produce and turn over to the latter the design plan, working documents and technical manuals on the installation, operation and repair of the various equipment. The Soviet corporation will also provide the Chinese side with equipment, needed materials and catalysts, send engineers and technicians to help the Chinese side to install and test the equipment until it is put into operation, and receive technicians from China for training in the Soviet Union. When the final round of talks on the contract was underway in China, some Chinese specialists were visiting a number of methyl alcohol-producing enterprises in the Soviet Union to get acquainted with the experience and technologies of these enterprises in producing methyl alcohol. Comrade (Zuboleskiy) says: Talks have also been held with the Chinese side on the offer of technical assistance to China for the production of the chemical fertilizer (?powdered ammonia fluoride). An agreement has been reached to conduct in the Soviet Union chemical examination and experiments on China's (?calcium phosphate) earth, including trial processing of (?powdered ammonia fluoride). The All-Union Petrochemical Industry Export Corporation and China Technologies and Equipment Import Corporation signed a contract on this. According to the initial agreement, a (?powdered ammonia phosphate) plant with a capacity of 65,000 metric tons will be built at the Zhuzhou City Chemical Works. In November 1986, Chinese specialists visited enterprises in Cherkassy and Severodonetsk that produce ammonia water and methyl alcohol.

[Russan passage fading into Mandarin translation read by the same announcer] Comrade (Zuboleskiy) says: While negotiations were being held in China, representatives from the Jiangsu Chemical Plant and Jilin Chemical Industry Center showed up and inquired about the possibilities of cooperation between these plants and the Soviet Union in manufacturing phenol and formaldehyde resin in China. In short, the first strides have been made in the cooperation between Soviet and Chinese chemical industry workers.

Northeast Asia

Primorskiy Athletes To Attend Summer Olympics

SK311136 Moscow International Service in Korean 0930 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Feature program devoted to "Soviet Primorskiy"]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners in Korea: Let me congratulate you on your upcoming New Year. Today we will air a program celebrating this happy holiday. [passage omitted]

Greater attention will be paid to sports in 1988. There will be the Summer Olympics next year and athletes from the Primorskiy [Kray] will also participate in them.

Everybody should pay even greater attention to sports because each of the Olympic records will be achieved by the sports accomplishments of many of those who routinely practice various kinds of sports to improve their health. [passage omitted]

Okinawa Protests Proposed U.S. Airfield Site

LD301456 Moscow TASS in English 1347 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Tokyo December 30 TASS—Residents of Kunigami on the Japanese island of Okinawa have started round-the-clock picketing at the site of a would-be airfield for Harrier fighter-planes of U.S. Marines.

Local government bodies and practically the entire population of the area oppose the construction of the planned Pentagon base.

About 25 per cent of Okinawa's territory is occupied by U.S. military bases.

Moscow Examines U.S.-Japanese Joint Arms Plan

OW311028 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Report on undated PRAVDA article by Political Observer Ovchinnikov on U.S. new arms development plan]

[Text] PRAVDA, a newspaper published in Moscow, carries an article by Political Observer Ovchinnikov on the U.S. intention to have Japan take part in the joint technological development plan—BTI [Balanced Technical Initiative]. Concerning the new ultramodern weapons development plan of the United States, Observer Ovchinnikov writes:

Following the signing of the INF abolition treaty, the U.S. Government has been concentrating efforts on the development of a weapons system that can be used for

both nonnuclear and nuclear arms. It is different from conventional systems in that it makes it possible to launch attacks with either conventional or nuclear warheads.

The so-called BTI calls for pooling together the energies of the United States and its allies for developing a weapons system which, in principle, is a new generation. Since neither the United States nor the West European nations can drastically increase military spending by themselves, the United States proposes to undertake the program jointly.

First comes technological cooperation, and then the sharing of the development funds. In these two areas, Japan is regarded as most important in the BTI program. Japan is a treasure-house of technology which surpasses the Western nations, and Japan has far greater financial resources than the West.

Japan's trade registers a surplus of approximately $100 billion every year. Whereas the United States has become the world's greatest debtor nation, Japan has become the biggest creditor country. While Japan's military spending has only recently begun exceeding 1% of the gross national product, U.S. military expenditures account for 7% of the GNP.

So the United States is trying to make Japan a designing office of the United States and a finance office of the U.S. military-industrial complexes.

The U.S. Government first notified the Japanese side of this BTI program at the regular bilateral consultations on military spending. The U.S. side attaches importance to Japan's participation in the BTI program. President Reagan plans to bring up this question when Prime Minister Takeshita visits Washington in January.

Both BTI and SDI are aimed at making up for the reduction of nuclear arms by shifting the arms race to the next plane. It may be safe to say that, in essense, they are twin programs.

Moscow Reviews Relations With Japan Over 1987

OW310818 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1000 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Commentary by station foreign affairs commentator Olgin]

[Text] As far as Soviet-Japanese relations are concerned, it is impossible to say that this year was either a good year or a bad year. Soviet-Japanese relations in 1987 were capriciously entangled with upsurges and stagnation and leaps and standstills.

Let us take a closer look to see what their situation was like.

High-level Soviet-Japanese political dialogues were continued this year as before. In September in New York while the UN General Assembly was in session, Soviet-Japanese foreign ministers talks were held at which an outline of improved Soviet-Japanese relations was drawn up.

In November a political consultation was held in Tokyo between the Soviet and Japanese vice foreign ministers. This was the first high-level talk between the Soviet Union and Japan since the inauguration of the Takeshita cabinet.

Mutual visits by major Soviet and Japanese politicians and public activists were conducted throughout the year. Those who visited Japan from the Soviet Union, for example, were Minister of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education Yagodin, Minister of Power Generation Lukonin, and Nenashev, chairman of the State Committee for Publishing Houses, Printing Plants and the Book Trade. Visiting the Soviet Union from Japan were Agricultural, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Kato, a delegation of the Dietmen's League for Japan-Soviet Friendship led by Chairman Sakurauchi, and Mr Daisaku Ikeda, honorary chairman of Sokagakkai, who is a well-known public activist in Japan.

It is clear from this fact alone that political dialogues between the two countries were not interrupted this year. At the same time, it cannot be forgotten that they were patently less dense than last year and other years.

Last year the foreign ministers of the two countries exchanged mutual visits resulting with questions concerning mutual visits by top leaders of the two countries being placed on the order of the day.

The problem lies in the fact that, regrettably, Soviet-Japanese relations this year experienced violent changes. A turn for the better in the bilateral relations, which has been carried forward from last year, shifted to a cooling off again one day. [sentence as heard]

It seems that the prospect of a favorable turn in Soviet-Japanese relations did not find favor with certain political forces in Japan and elsewhere. These forces took action to apply the brakes on the positive trends in the bilateral relations and to turn them back again if possible.

With Washington's backing, unfriendly anti-Soviet campaigns based on a wild fancy about spies were carried out in Japan. Naturally they left their trace on Soviet-Japanese relations, exerting a harmful influence on the atmosphere for a long time.

This undesirable page in Soviet-Japanese relations was turned over to the next page with the birth of a new cabinet in Japan, thanks to the efforts by both sides.

Naturally the fluctuations in political [word indistinct] in Soviet-Japanese relations affected trade and economic exchanges between the two countries. The Japanese side took measures to limit and reduce reciprocal trade and economic exchanges. As a consequence, judging from all indications, the trade volume between the two countries this year is expected to be smaller than last year.

However, there were no small number of affirmative happenings in the Soviet-Japanese trade and economic exchanges this year. For the first time in the history of Soviet-Japanese economic relations, an agreement was signed in Moscow in June for establishing in the Soviet Union a joint venture producing lumber, (Igirma-Tairiku). It is hoped that this first trial will open the way to a broad use of business cooperation of a new form between the Soviet Union and Japan.

At present some 40 proposals of Japanese businesses on possible cooperation objects are under study in the Soviet Union.

In June a new intergovernmental consultation, the vice trade ministers talks on trade and economic affairs, was held in Tokyo. At the talks the Soviet Union proposed to hold talks on the conclusion of a long-term intergovernmental agreement on economic and industrial cooperation between the Soviet Union and Japan. To conclude such an agreement, which the Soviet Union has already concluded with a number of Western countries, will exert a favorable influence on Soviet-Japanese trade and economic exchanges.

The fourth meeting of the Soviet-Japanese Intergovernmental Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation, held in Moscow in December, was also an important event. Under a cooperation agreement approved at this meeting, cooperation will be conducted next year in such new fields as thermonuclear fusion, plasma physics, medicine, radiology and forestry.

In fisheries Soviet-Japanese cooperation has also kept developing on a constructive basis as a whole. Toward the end of the year talks within the framework of the Fourth Soviet-Japanese Fisheries Committee came to a successful end. The fish-catch quotas for both sides next year, for instance, increased.

Against this backdrop the sharply increased violations of fishing regulations by Japanese fishermen in waters within the 200-nautical-mile Soviet zone are obviously abnormal. The Japanese side was warned many times against this, and the Japanese side gave assurances that it would take measures to prevent such things from recurring.

Soviet-Japanese exchanges made further developments this year in many other areas as well. The Soviet Union and Japan agreed to increase the frequency of flights by Aeroflot and JAL on the trans-Siberian routes. Soviet-Japanese cultural exchanges also continued to development, even showing a tendency toward activation.

This year a countless number of excellent happenings, which will be impressed on our minds, took place. The Kabuki troupe's performances in the Soviet Union, for instance, were a big success and a Japanese garden, the only one of its kind in the Soviet Union as a permanent exhibition of this kind, came into being in the Moscow botanical garden.

In Tokyo last week, memorandums on the ratification of a Soviet-Japanese intergovernmental agreement concerning cultural exchanges were exchanged.

Thus a number of desirable things were achieved this year, thanks to efforts made by both sides in various directions. However, it can not be said that this was satisfactory to supporters of Soviet-Japanese good-neighborliness.

This year it was particularly patently brought into relief that there was no stability in the development of Soviet-Japanese relations and that the relations were apt to be influenced by changes in activity.

The year 1987 provided no small number of materials for pondering about future Soviet-Japanese relations. What will become of Soviet-Japanese relations next year? We hope that the new page in Soviet-Japanese relations, opened through the efforts of both sides, will be filled with concrete substance that will benefit the peoples of the two countries.

Batmonh Gives Livestock Report at MPRP Plenum

PM181451 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Dec 1987 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report under the headline "MPRP Central Committee Plenum"]

Ulaanbaatar, 11 Dec (TASS)—A routine MPRP Central Committee plenum has been held here. It heard and discussed a report by J. Batmonh, general secretary of the MPRP Central Committee and chairman of the People's Great Hural Presidum on "Tasks to Develop Livestock Raising and Improve Rural Working People's Cultural and Living Conditions."

"In the last 2 years plus," the speaker noted, "agriculture has encountered considerable natural and climatic difficulties.

"If you take the results over many years, livestock raising is in a state of stagnation. Livestock population has been at the level of 22.6 million head for the last 16 years. There are great reserves for improving the herd's productivity." The speaker dwelt in detail on urgent tasks of making efficient use of the sector's material and technical base, increasing feed production, improving selection

work, improving agricultural production techniques, and introducing advanced experience. Great attention will be paid to improving rural working people's sociocultural conditions, especially to constructing housing.

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Lao Embassy Remarks on Thai 'Aggressive Actions'

PM311204 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Dec 87 Morning Edition p 4

[V. Ganshin report: "Embassy Press Conference"]

[Text] A press conference was held at the Lao Embassy in Moscow on 28 December, devoted to the situation on the Lao-Thai border, which has recently deteriorated because of aggressive actions by the Thai Armed Forces. Air raids and artillery shelling of Lao territory, it was noted at the meeting, are the most serious expansionist acts by Bangkok since the formation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. It is clear that all this is taking place against the background of the positive developments begun in the resolution of regional problems.

However, despite the border instability between the two states, Vientiane has not stopped trying to settle the conflict by peaceful means and resume the third round of Lao-Thai talks.

Lao, Cambodian Leaders Discuss Regional Issues

PM301447 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Dec 87 Second Edition p4

[TASS report: "In Favor of a Political Solution"]

[Text] Vientiane, 25 Dec—Laos and Cambodia are firmly in favor of solving Southeast Asian problems by political means alone. Together with fraternal Vietnam and other socialist countries, they will continue to pursue a course aimed at turning this region into a zone of peace and cooperation. This was stated during a meeting held here between Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) Central Committee and chairman of the Lao Council of Ministers, and Hun Sen, member of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party (KPRP) Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the PRK Council of Ministers, who is in Laos on a working visit.

Hun Sen briefed the Lao leader on the results of his meeting with Sihanouk in Paris. In his opinion, this first meeting was made possible by the selfless struggle of the Cambodian people, the peace initiatives of the three Indochinese countries aimed at turning Southeast Asia into a peace zone, and the national reconciliation policy announced by the PRK Government. This policy has received support from the USSR and all progressive forces in the world. Hun Sen confirmed that he would be willing to have another meeting with Sihanouk in January 1988.

K. Phomvihan said that Laos fully supports the results of the meeting in Paris and regards them as an important step on the way to achieving a political settlement of the Cambodian problem.

Organizations Support Thai Withdrawal From Laos

LD292129 Moscow TASS in English 2055 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow Decebmer 29 (TASS)—The Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Committee of the USSR and the Soviet Committee of Support for the Peoples of Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea express on behalf of the Soviet public serious concern over the situation in the area of the Lao-Thai border, says a statement issued by the two organizations.

Since mid-December Thai troops have been bombing and shelling the Lao territory. They captured a number of hills in the border area.

Laos proposed the Thailand to immediately stop hostilities and start talks with a view to settling the problems existing in relations between the two countries that were inherited by them from their colonial past.

The Soviet public emphatically supports the appeal of Laos for a peaceful settlement of controversal border problems and demands the immediate discontinuation of armed actions by Thailand and the withdrawal of all its troops from the Lao territory. Soviet people urge all those who are really interested in peace and stability in South-East Asia to support this demand.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Cambodia

PM301459 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Dec 87 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Agreement Signed"]

[Text] The Fourth Session of the Soviet-Cambodian Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic and Scientific and Technical Cooperation took place in Moscow 16 through 21 December. It discussed questions of the further development of economic ties between the USSR and the PRK.

A protocol has been signed on the results of the session, which took place in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding. Intergovernmental agreements and other documents on the principles of creating joint enterprises and on establishing direct production ties between the two countries' respective associations, enterprises, and organizations have also been signed.

Najibullah-Samrin Talks in Cambodia Reported

LD301521 Moscow TASS in English 1425 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Phnom Penh, December 30 TASS—Talks were held here today between the Afghan party-and-state delegation led by President Najibullah of the Republic of Afghanistan and a delegation of the People's Republic of Kampuchea (PRK) headed by Heng Samrin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea, chairman of the Council of State of the PRK.

The Afghan delegation is currently in the PRK on an official friendly visit.

Matters aimed at further broadening cooperation between the two countries and parties in various fields, and issues concerning the international situation and regional problems were discussed during the talks.

Special attention was devoted to various aspects of the national reconciliation policy being pursued both in Afghanistan and Kampuchea. The Afghan and Kampuchean leaders expressed conviction that the strengthening of the climate of trust and good-neighbourliness and a settlement of regional conflicts by political means would promote the cause of peace and security in Asia and throughout the world.

An official reception in honor of the Afghan party-and-state delegation was given in the Kampuchean capital, with the Afghan and Kampuchean leaders exchanging speeches.

It was pointed out that the talks in Washington between Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and President Ronald Reagan of the United States, and the signing of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles were a radical step towards creating a favourable climate for a settlement of regional conflicts, the situation regarding Afghanistan and Kampuchea, and other problems.

It was also pointed out that the world public and all progressive and peace forces welcomed with immense interest the programmatic statement of the PRK's government on the principles of a political settlement of the Kampuchean problem.

This is a serious step forward along the road of resolving the political situation which for years darkened life in the country and in South East Asia as a whole. The Afghan Government and the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan ardently welcome and support the constructive proposals of the PRK.

The governments of Afghanistan and Kampuchea must cooperate most closely in the implementation of the national reconciliation policy. The range of such cooperation may be very wide—from exchanges of experience to joint coordinated actions in the international arena.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Nauru

PM301431 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Dec 87 Second Edition p 4

["Joint Statement on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations Between the USSR and the Republic of Nauru"—PRAVDA headline]

[Text] The governments of the USSR and the Republic of Nauru, taking into account the cordial and friendly relations that exist between them, have adopted a decision to establish diplomatic relations at embassy level.

Both governments have established diplomatic relations in accordance with the principles of international law and, above all, guided by the principles of the states' equality, mutual respect for each other's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, self-determination, noninterference in the other state's internal affairs, respect for obligations stemming from international treaties, and the peaceful resolution of disputed questions. They also confirm that both sides oppose colonialism, neocolonialism, apartheid, and all forms of discrimination.

The governments of the USSR and the Republic of Nauru have agreed to appoint nonresidential ambassadors [posly po sovmestitelstvu] as soon as is practically feasible.

Chebrikov Returns From Visit To SRV, Laos

LD292018 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 29 Dec 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Comrade Chebrikov today returned to Moscow. He was on official friendly visits to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic at the invitation of the Central Committees of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the People's Revolutionary Party of Laos, and of the governments of those countries. He was met at the airport by Comrade Vorotnikov and other officials. Among those meeting him were Nguyen Manh Cam, Vietnamese ambassador to the USSR, and (Soukhasem), charge'd'affaires ad interim of Laos to the USSR. [Video shows Chebrikov descending aircraft steps; party advances to meet him led by Vorotnikov; Chebrikov and Vorotnikov shake hands]

Burmese Ambassador Departs Moscow 28 Dec

PM301435 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Dec 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Ambassador's Departure"]

[Text] U Tin Aye, ambassador of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma to the USSR, departed Moscow 28 December.

Deputy Foreign Minister Visits Mongolia

For Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME reporting on the visit to Mongolia by Deputy Foreign Minister I.A. Rogachev, see the Mongolia section of the 30 December East Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

N.V. Nikiforov Pays Visit to Thailand

For Bangkok reportage of the visit to Thailand by Deputy Foreign Minister N.V. Nikiforov, including his meeting with Thai Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshall Sitthi Sawetsila, see the Thailand section of the 30 December East Asia DAILY REPORT, and subsequent issues.

Near East & South Asia

Khowst Military Operation Ends 'Successfully'

LD302145 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] In the Khowst area of eastern Afghanistan a major military operation has ended. Aleksandr Shkirando, our correspondent in Kabul reports.

[Shkirando] The Khowst operation which started as early as the second half of November has ended successfully. This means that the military and economic blockade has been lifted in the Khowst district, which is right near the border with Pakistan.

As everyone knows, the Afghan Government has taken every possible measure to end this seige peacefully and open the Khowst-Gardez road for traffic. However, extremist gangs led by Jalalluddin have ignored all the proposals made by the government as well as by people's representatives from the Paktia, Paktika, and Khowst Provinces.

During the military actions over 1,600 counterrevolutionaries were killed or injured. The government troops seized a great number of weapons and ammunition stores as well as bases with clothes, food, and medical supplies. In addition, over 3 million small arms cartridges, over 50,000 grenades, and over 80,000 surface-to-surface rocket projectiles were seized. Today a new peaceful stage of life has started in this region. The first peaceful convoy of traffic has arrived in Khowst. It has delivered food and basic essentials to the starved and siege-weary population [word indistinct]. In the next few days a total of 600 large freight vehicles will arrive in Khowst from Gardez. Most of the goods to be delivered are free assistance from Soviet friends.

Afghan Withdrawal Linked to End of U.S. Aid

PM301531 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Dec 87 Morning Edition p 4

[V. Skosyrev article: "Hopes and Doubts. Who Is 'For' and Who Is 'Against' a Political Settlement Around Afghanistan"]

[Text] THE NEW YORK TIMES reported from the UN headquarters that, as part of the quest for a peaceful solution to the Afghan problem, UN Deputy Secretary General D. Cordovez met this month with former King Zahir Shah of Afghanistan, who is living in exile in Rome. There is talk, the newspaper claims, that Zahir Shah could return to Afghanistan "as a constitutional monarch without full political power...." Cordovez also visited other capitals after Rome.

As we can see, representatives of the international community are not idly sitting by on the eve of the next round of indirect Afghan-Pakistani talks in Geneva scheduled for early next year. They are taking energetic actions to promote success at the talks.

Of course, the Afghans themselves will have the final say in determining the future of their motherland. There are no reasons to doubt the Afghans' ardent desire to put an end to the bloodshed. The question is what stance will be taken by the United States, its NATO allies, and Pakistan in the light of the upcoming meetings in Geneva. Are they prepared to help reach a compromise or will they, just like before, bank on fanning the war and on turning Afghan soil into a bridgehead for anti-Soviet strategy?

As far as the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan is concerned, it has proved by specific actions and in practice its readiness to translate the idea of national reconciliation into reality. As a matter of fact, the entire year of 1987 passed beneath the sign of this idea. Let us recall: Way back on 3 January Kabul announced a unilateral cease-fire. The suspension of military operations was backed up by political steps. The Republic proposed to the leaders of the armed opposition that they should join a coalition cabinet, take over a number of ministerial positions, and even nominate a candidate for the office of president.

This initiative was accompanied by the formation of national reconciliation commissions in the capital and in the provinces and by meetings with leaders of counterrevolutionary detachments. Many of them laid down their arms and backed the coalition organs of local power. The flood of refugees returning home from Pakistan swelled.

Finally, an event took place in the last few days of November which expanded further still the framework for settling the internal conflicts tearing Afghanistan apart. A Loya Jirgah was convened in Kabul, which approved the new constitution. It officially enshrined the National-Democratic Party's rejection of the monopoly of power and enshrined the multi-party principle in the state. It is well-known that the slogan of the "Defense of Islam" from communism is emblazoned on the banners of the counterrevolution. In actual fact even previously the people's power was not against religion, but now the constitution officially proclaims Islam to be the sacred religion of Afghanistan.

Of course, our readers must be perturbed by the question of the presence of the limited contingent of Soviet troops on Afghan soil. This is indicated by letters received in the editorial office. The Republic's President Najibullah announced at the last Loya Jirgah that a proposal to withdraw Soviet troops from Afghanistan within a period of 12 months or even less has been discussed [obgovoreno] with the Soviet leadership. The Afghan side intends to submit this proposal at the forthcoming Geneva talks, bearing in mind that all documents there are almost fully agreed.

It would seem that the skies above the Afghan land ought to clear, and they are, indeed, clearing: After all, having made the political decision to bring back our internationalist servicemen, the Soviet Union at the same time clearly stated that it is not striving for a pro-Soviet regime in Afghanistan. We advocate that our southern neighbor should be a free, nonaligned, and neutral state.

But the United States must also state clearly that it is not aiming to set up a pro-American regime. It is assumed that the United States, just like the Soviet Union, would be guarantors of the implementation of an agreement on peaceful settlement. This means that the United States must cease delivering arms and financing the dushmans, must refrain from encouraging subversive activity on Afghanistan's territory, and must respect its neutral status.

Let us recall that the Afghan problem was discussed at the recent Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Washington. The leaders of the two powers agreed to continue the discussions; this produced the hope that a document to assist a political settlement would be elaborated.

On the other hand, it is no secret that extreme right-wing politicians across the ocean would like to wage a war against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan until there are no more Afghans left. Even post-summit statements by Administration spokesmen are highly ambiguous. A briefing by Under Secretary of State M. Armacost in connection with the latest Department of State report on Afghanistan is indicative in this context. As if it were not enough that the report offers a biased interpretation of events during the last 8 years since the USSR responded to Kabul's request for military assistance, Mr Armacost sowed doubts about Washington's real intentions on such a key issue as the linkage of the withdrawal of Soviet troops with the cessation of U.S. supplies and finance for the dushmans.

It is perfectly clear that these two are interlinked and must be implemented simultaneously. The under secretary of state does not deny this. Having recognized the U.S. obligations on this account, he claimed that the United States apparently still needs to "look at the agreement as a whole and sum up the results" before moving to meet its obligations. Such nebulous conditions put people on their guard. Could it be that the Department of State is setting a trap in order to wreck the process of normalization? In any event, THE WASHINGTON POST perceives these statements as a concession to conservatives within the Republican Party who are opposed to reconciliation.

No matter what the correlation of forces within the U.S. establishment may be, the question is too serious to be turned into an object of political speculation. Every day of the undeclared war costs more Afghan lives. And if the United States and its partners really want to put an end to the Afghan people's sufferings, as they claim, they cannot evade backing accords which open the prospects of long-awaited peace for Afghanistan.

CPSU's Brutents Meets With Syrian Official

LD311204 Moscow TASS in English 1130 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] Damascus December 31 TASS—Karen Brutents, alternate member of the CPSU Central Committee, deputy head of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee, who is currently on a visit here as a special envoy of the Soviet leadership, has met with 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, deputy general secretary of the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party.

In the course of the meeting, which proceeded in a friendly atmosphere, 'Abdallah al-Ahmar was briefed on the Soviet-American summit meeting in Washington. He welcomed the results of the talks between Mikhail Gorbachev general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, with U.S. President Ronald Reagan, the signing of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles, which accords with the interests of all peoples and will leave a positive impact on international developments. A. al-Ahmar said that the Arab East highly appreciates the consistent policy of the USSR which tirelessly works for the equitable participation of all states, both big and small, in international affairs. The important role was stressed which is played by the public and political forces in settling regional conflicts.

The sides expressed solidarity with the Arab people of Palestine waging a courageous struggle for their national rights.

TASS Views Uprising in West Bank, Gaza

LD302159 Moscow TASS in English 2116 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 30 TASS—TASS observer Yevgeniy Babenko writes:

A regular popular uprising has swept these days the West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza sector. The murder in Gaza of a Palestinian girl and the running of an Israeli truck into cars belonging to Arabs when several more people were killed was the last straw. Fire arms, tear gas and clubs are used against defenseless participants in rallies and demonstrations. Tens of Arabs were killed and some 200 wounded.

A correspondent of the French newspaper L'HUMANITE pointed out in his report from the Gaza sector today that despite repressions and terror Palestinians were full of resolve to continue the struggle against the occupation, upholding the inalienable right to the self-determination of their nation. Another correspondent, this time of THE WASHINGTON POST, wrote in detail about trials of Arabs on Israeli-ccupied lands. He called special attention to the fact that it took some Israeli judges no more than three minutes to pass a sentence. No lawyers or witnesses are usually present at the trials. Trying to calm the readers, THE WASHINGTON POST correspondent wrote that, according to well-informed sources, the U.S. is planning to send its diplomatic representatives there who will attend the trials.

If American diplomats really come to Israel, they will have ample opportunity to see for themselves that the situation there can well be described as American doing, apart from other parties involved. Directly or indirectly, the U.S. Administration supports the 'morale' of the invaders. It is not accidental that G. Olan, U.S. deputy representative at the U.N. said at the Security Council that his country could not vote for a resolution containing general criticism of Israeli policy, but ignoring provocations awaiting Israeli security services.

Speaking about principles followed by the U.S. Administration with regard to Israeli repressions against Palestinians, one should not fail to mention Washington's 'special approach' to it. It is surprisingly tolerant to the daily crimes committed by invaders against the Arab population. If something like this took place in another country, in another region, Washington is sure to make a great fuss about it.

Mary McGrory, a well-known American observer, wrote recently that if the people killed in the Gaza sector were not Arabs but Israelis, one could well imagine the indignation of Washington. She interviewed a congressman who spoke on condition of anonymity. He explained why he and other congressmen turned speechless when it came to denouncing Tel Aviv. He admitted that no one ventured to speak his mind because they were all afraid of the Israeli lobby.

S. Hoffmann, a scientist working at Harvard University, said that protest actions of Palestinians on occupied territories could not surprise anyone. What is really surprising is the blindness of U.S. policy. It is repeated over and over again that the U.S. promotes the establishment of democracy and freedom, however, the U.S. has been tolerating the Israeli invasion of Arab lands for 20 years.

The U.S. continues to render active all-round assistance to Israel, including deliveries of the most up-to-date armaments. Meanwhile, Israel is going on with its policy of genocide with regard to the Arab population.

Criticism of Deportations

LD301831 Moscow TASS in English 1612 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 30 TASS—By TASS commentator Vadim Lagutin:

Palestinians arrested during recent protests on the West Bank of the River Jordan and the Gaza Strip will be deported, Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Shamir declared.

Shamir said as he visited a Jewish settlement near Jerusalem that deportations had been used in the past as a means of ensuring security and that they would continue to be used as such as need be.

"Ensuring security", of course, has nothing to do with this. Forcing Arabs out of their native lands is a goal forming the basis of Zionists' policy which is directed at perpetrating the occupation of Arab territories, making Palestinians abandon their home parts, by depriving them of the means of subsistence, and settling those lands with Jewish colonists.

Tel Aviv has been unswervingly following a course of intensively Judaizing all captured territories. "What has got into our hands is ours and what yet remains in the Arabs' is our goal," is the principle of the Zionist doctrine.

Already, more than 200 settlements with over 60,000 Jewish inhabitants have been built on the West Bank, another 20 in the area of East Jerusalem and 20 more, with 20,000 inhabitants, in the Gaza Strip.

More than 400,000 Israeli colonists are to live in these territories, including Syria's Golan Heights, by the year 2000.

By now, over half of cultivated Arab lands have been confiscated, hundred of falahin's homes destroyed and the peasants themselves have been denied the use of traditional water sources, which have for centuries served as the only means of irrigation.

Deprived occupied territories of all economic activity and compelling the local population to leave home parts, Israel's ruling quarters thus pave the ground for a final annexation of occupied districts.

Those refusing to use the services of specially established resettlement firms are forcibly driven from their native lands. The pretexts chosen may range all the way from environmental protection to the laying of supply lines.

Arab villages are being surrounded by so-called Jewish colonizer settlements. According to eye witnesses, the houses in such settlements are made from prefabricated concrete slabs, have high fences, barbed wire entanglements and watch-towers with powerful searchlights around them and thus are well-equipped strongholds capable of repulsing attacks from all sides.

The authorities look upon the colonizers as "civil guards" which should perform policing functions.

All forces have now been hurled to suppress a popular uprising in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Dozens of Palestinians have been killed and hundreds of others wounded by punitive troops. Thousands of patriots have been imprisoned.

Israeli troops have not been showing mercy even to women, old people and children.

The revolt has come as a natural and legitimate response by Palestinians to continuing roundups, arrests and shootings at demonstrators.

The Palestinian people have risen up against the oppressive occupation regime, against the latter's humiliating attitudes and repressive tactics.

They are struggling for their dignity and freedom.

PLO Envoy on Israeli Reprisals

LD300342 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1854 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow, 29 December (TASS)—The present mass actions of the Palestinians in the territories occupied by Israel provide evidence of their resolve to gain legal rights, first and foremost the rights for self-determination and to create an independent state on their native soil under the leadership of the PLO—the only legal representative of the Palestinian people, said Zayd Abu 'Amarah the PLO's temporary charge d'affaires in the USSR.

Speaking at the press conference here today, he stressed that the latest crimes of the Israeli Zionists against the Palestinian people have not broken their will to fight. In implementing the "iron fist" policy in the occupied territories, the Zionists shoot at peaceful demonstrations, lay siege to Palestinian camps, repeatedly burst into the hospitals where the wounded lie and kill the doctors. Dozens of people have become victims of these reprisals; hundreds were wounded; thousands demonstrators were thrown into jail. These crimes once again showed the world the fascist nature of the present Zionist regime and its true objectives—the extermination and expulsion of the Palestinian people from its native lands.

The U.S. Administration, while holding forth about rights, is not doing anything to save the Palestinians, who are perishing under the Zionists' bullets. Washington's all-round support for Tel Aviv is the main factor determining Israel's expansionist policy, Zayd Abu 'Amarah stressed. The United States and Israel are stubbornly torpedoing positive steps aimed at a just solution of the Palestinian problem. The present demonstrations by the Palestinians have shown the futility of the calculations that a generation which has grown up in occupation conditions will resign itself to this. They have confirmed the unity of the Palestinian people.

Convening an international peace conference under the aegis of the UN with the participation on an equal basis of all interested parties and the Palestine Liberation Organisation is the real path leading to a settlement of the conflict in the Near East, Zayd Abu 'Amarah said.

'Arafat on Uprising, Protest

LD291829 Moscow TASS in English 1512 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Tunis December 29 TASS—The events taking place in the occupied Arab territories are a real popular uprising. Its aim is to ensure the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination and creation of their own independent state, TASS correspondent Igor Bereznikovskiy was told by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. Whatever brutal repressions and terror the Israeli occupiers may resort to, they will never be able to break the will of the Palestinian people for freedom and independence, he said.

Yasir 'Arafat condemned Washington's military-political and economic aid to Tel Aviv and described it as a direct encouragement of the state-sponsored terrorism policy pursued by Israel against the peaceful Arab population. The occupiers are using U.S.-made weapons to make short shrift of unarmed demonstrators, he stressed.

The chairman of the PLO executive Committee said that the upsurge of the liberation movement in the captured territories will objectively help towards the convocation of an international conference on the Middle East. Such a conference, he noted, is the sole real way to ensure a just and lasting peace in the region.

PLO's 'Arafat Replies to Ryzhkov Message

LD041220 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat sent Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, a reply to the greetings on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity With the Arab People's of Palestine. In the message, 'Arafat expressed profound gratitude for the Soviet Union's principled support for the struggle of the Palestinian people for the restoration of their inalienable lawful rights and for establishing a just and lasting peace in the Near East.

In the telegram Yasir 'Arafat confirmed the striving to strengthen Soviet-Palestinian relations in the name of the common goals and interests of the two friendly peoples.

Trade Volume With Bangladesh To Increase

LD041119 Moscow TASS in English 1833 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 3 TASS—Next year the volume of trade between the USSR and Bangladesh is to grow by a third as compared with the current year. This is envisaged in the documents signed in Moscow today to regulate trade between the two countries in 1988.

As we pointed out the signing ceremony, the assortment of products will be considerably broadened. Thus Bangladesh will supply, apart from its staple export items — jute and articles of jute, tea and leather — also synthetic dyes, telephone cable, handicraft articles, cosmetics and textiles.

The Soviet Union will supply to Bangladesh machinery and equipment, oil, cotton and other goods.

The talks covered questions pertaining to further development of cooperation in a number of fields of the economy, including the power engineering industry, as well as the possibility to set up joint ventures.

The documents were signed by Yevgeniy Bavrin, USSR deputy foreign trade minister, and Golam Mustafa, secretary of the Bangladesh Ministry of Commerce.

Briefs

Soviet, Afghan Province Ties

Talas Oblast in Kirghizia and Vardak Province in Afghanistan have established direct friendly ties. The gifts which have been dispatched from the former to the latter in the last few days include warm clothing, books, toys and school equipment. Economic aid from the working people of Talas to the Afghan people will expand significantly in the new year; there will also be exchanges of delegations, concert teams and exhibitions. [Summary] [*Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0304 GMT 30 Dec 87 LD*]

Soviet-Afghan Friendship School

A new Soviet-Afghan cooperation construction project has opened in Kabul. It is a school of friendship where a number of subjects are taught in Russian. It was built on the basis of free technical assistance from the USSR. The school will be attended by 1,300 young Afghan pupils. [Summary] [*Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1130 GMT 27 Dec 87 LD*]

Textbook Protocol With India

New Delhi December 23 TASS—A meeting of the Soviet-Indian mixed commission on textbooks ended with a signing of protocol on cooperation in publishing teaching aids in New Delhi today. The meeting was chaired by Anil Bordia, secretary of the Indian Department of Education. India's new education policy put special emphasis on book-printing, Bordia went on to say. He stressed that the Soviet-Indian commission contributed to achieving the aims of that policy and also to fulfilling a joint educational project which would make Soviet textbooks available to Indian students and would strengthen mutual understanding between Soviet and Indian peoples. The protocol was signed by Anil Bordia and N. S. Yegorov, USSR deputy minister for higher and specialized secondary education. [Excerpts] [*Moscow TASS in English 2007 GMT 23 Dec 87 LD*]

Jordanian Visa Memoranda

Memoranda on the (?simplification) of the granting of travel visas to the citizens of the USSR and Jordan have been exchanged at the Soviet Foreign Ministry. The exchange of the memoranda, which constitute an agreement between the two countries, was in accordance with what was agreed upon during the official visit of King Husayn to the USSR. [Text] [*Moscow International Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 30 Dec 87 LD*]

New Jordanian Amity Group Head

The Soviet-Jordanian Friendship Society is nine years old. It did much to promote relations between the two peoples by holding friendship days, marking national days, sending friendship delegations, and holding exhibitions. The society held a meeting on 22 December to elect its new officers. Nikolay Trubilin, RSFSR deputy chairman, was elected chairman of the society. The meeting approved its activities for 1988. [Summary] [*Moscow International Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 24 Dec 87 LD*]

East Europe

BCP's Lukanov Meets With Talyzin, Silayev

PM301617 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Dec 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Conversations Held"]

[Text] A. Lukanov, candidate member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and Bulgarian minister of foreign economic relations, was on a working visit to Moscow 21-24 December.

A. Lukanov had conversations with N.V. Talyzin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and meetings at the USSR Council of Ministers and with leaders of ministries and departments.

Questions concerning the further deepening of economic cooperation between the USSR and Bulgaria were discussed.

A. Lukanov was received at his request by I.S. Silayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, on 24 December.

During the conversation that took place, they discussed questions of mutual interest concerning the development of cooperation in the machine building sphere, including the utilization of new forms of economic, production, scientific, and technical ties between USSR and Bulgarian enterprises and associations.

Bulgarian Ambassador to the USSR G. Pankov took part in the conversation.

SFRY Leaders Send Thanks for Republic Day Greetings

Krunic Message

PM301449 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Dec 87 Second Edition p 1

[LCY President Krunic thanks CPSU Central Committee for Republic Day message]

[Text] To the CPSU Central Committee.

We cordially thank you for your congratulations and good wishes on our Republic Day.

We would like to take this opportunity to reemphasize our readiness to further develop stable, all-around relations between the LCY and the CPSU and between the SFRY and the USSR on the basis of well known principles, confident as we are that this is in the long-term interests of our countries' peoples and peace and socialism throughout the world.

Bosko Krunic, president of the LCY Central Committee Presidium.

Mojsov Thanks to Presidium

PM301451 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Dec 87 Second Edition p 1

[SFRY Presidium Chairman Lazar Mojsov thanks to USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium for Republic Day message]

[Text] To the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

On behalf of the SFRY Presidium and from myself personally I express the deepest appreciation for the congratulations and good wishes you sent on Yugoslavia's national day.

I fully share your confidence that the present level of friendly relations and cooperation between our countries represents a solid basis opening up new prospects and, as we realize these prospects, our ties will gain even deeper meaning and substance and serve our mutual interests to an increasing extent. Like you, I believe that continuing the useful practice of bilateral meetings, exchange of experience, and constructive dialogue at all levels will make a substantial contribution to the achievement of these aims.

For my part I send very best wishes for continued success in socialist building and happiness and prosperity for the friendly peoples of the USSR.

Lazar Mojsov, president of the SFRY Presidium.

Yazov Greets SFRY's Mamula on Army Jubilee

PM311129 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Dec 87 Second Edition p 1

[Defense Minister Yazov greetings to Yugoslav counterpart on Yugoslav People's Army anniversary]

[Text] To Comrade Fleet Admiral B. Mamula, SFRY Federal Secretary for National Defense

Esteemed Comrade Federal Secretary!

On the occasion of the 46th anniversary of the Yugoslav People's Army I send you and all Yugoslav servicemen our cordial congratulations on behalf of the Soviet Armed Forces and myself personally.

It is pleasing to realize that the development of relations between the USSR Armed Forces and the Yugoslav People's Army in the spirit of friendship and comprehensive cooperation between the peoples of our countries serves the cause of socialism and peace throughout the world.

I wish the servicemen of the Yugoslav People's Army success in their military labor for the strengthening of the SFRY's defense capability.

With communist greetings,

Army General D. Yazov, USSR defense minister

TANJUG Poll Cites Gorbachev Popularity

LD292238 Moscow TASS in English 2030 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Belgrade December 29 TASS—Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, is the most popular statesman and political figure of 1987. This follows from the results of an analysis held by TANJUG. It was based on reports of 47 correspondents of the Yugoslav news agency working in all the regions of the world who used questionnaires of 10 world's biggest news agencies.

Mikhail Gorbachev is described as the most outstanding personality of the year primarily as the initiator of the socio-economic reform and the democratization of public life in the Soviet Union.

Shcherbitskiy Receives Polish Consul General

LD311015 Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 0415 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Shcherbitskiy, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Communist Party of the Ukraine Central Committee, received on 29 December Olchowski, Poland's consul general in Kiev, at the latter's request.

During the meeting, stress was placed on the great significance of the meeting between Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and U.S. President Reagan, in Washington, which became possible thanks to the socialist countries' agreed actions that are directed at reducing the threat of nuclear war, strengthening peace, and developing mutually advantageous international cooperation.

Comrade Shcherbitskiy acquainted the consul general with the implementation in the republic of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the subsequent plenums [words indistinct].

Olchowski explained the socioeconomic transformations which are being carried out in Poland in accordance with the decisions of the 20th PZPR Congress and on the work of Poland's consulate-general with regard to the development of Polish-Soviet [word indistinct]. They also discussed the participation of the Ukrainian SSR in cooperation between the USSR and Poland.

Albanian Paper Cited on Economic Problems

PM310854 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Dec 87 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Approach to Problems"]

[Text] Tirana, 26 Dec—Problems of overcoming difficulties in Albania's economy are the subject of an editorial in the newspaper ZERI I POPULLIT headed "Overcoming Difficulties—a Test of the Communist Combat Spirit."

The newspaper notes that this year, as in previous years, the country has encountered difficulties caused by objective factors. The prolonged drought in the spring could not fail to have a negative effect on agricultural production. The weather also affected the situation in the power industry, and thus in the work of industry too. With ordinary work, the harm done by these difficulties would undoubtedly have been far greater. But our people struggled selflessly against the elements and did not allow the economic situation in the country to deteriorate. This is a graphic manifestation of the vitality of our socialist system, the article says.

Party organizations should develop in working people a correct way of looking at difficulties. It is necessary everywhere to ensure a stricter thrift policy in everything and the uncovering and utilization of new reserves. It is necessary to draw on the working people's creative and innovative spirit, ZERI I POPULLIT concludes.

West Europe

Further on Visit of FRG's Strauss to Moscow

Holds News Conference 30 Dec

LD301611 Moscow TASS in English 1537 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 30 TASS—"Talks held in Moscow were useful, friendly and honest. They marked the beginning of a new policy in which we should like to make our contribution", Franz-Josef Strauss stated at a press conference here today. The minister-president of Bavaria and chairman of the Christian Social Union of West Germany is staying in the Soviet Union at the invitation of the State Foreign Economic Commission of the USSR Council of Ministers.

Strauss said that during his stay in Moscow he had met Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Eduard Shevardnadze, minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, Anatoliy Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Vladimir Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and head of the State Foreign Economic Commission of the USSR Council of Ministers, and Boris Tolstykh, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology.

"We are positive", the minister-president of Bavaria continued, "that the changes in certain spheres which are expressed by the words 'perestroyka' and 'glasnost' have started already in the Soviet Union. The openness with which our partners talked with us is an indication of a new style.

"Immediately after returning from the Soviet capital I shall inform Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl of the talks held in Moscow".

Franz-Josef Strauss said that he was going to draw the attention of the head of the FRG Government to the honesty of Soviet partners and their striving for changes. "The past year and the past months are beginning to change the world. I think, we are entering a new epoch", he said.

"We do not believe that one should expect a change in the political system as a result of a new political style, and we are not going to give the advice for which we were not asked. We welcome the beginning of the development which will result in both sides stopping to fear each other.

"West Germany regards the Treaty on the Elimination of Soviet and American Medium- and Shorter-Range Missiles signed in Washington as a political and psychological beginning of a further disarmament process", Strauss said. In this connection he spoke in favour of eliminating chemical weapons on a global scale and achieving progress at other disarmament talks.

Touching upon the problem of the assessment by the West German side of the beginning of the production of binary munitions in the U.S., the minister-president of Bavaria made it clear that not all the decisions taken across the ocean are supported unconditionally by the FRG.

"Mars, god of war, should step aside, and Mercury, god of commerce, should come to the fore", Strauss said, answering a question about West Germany's stand on trade with the Soviet Union. He came out in favour of a broad Soviet-West German long-term cooperation. The time when the weakness of one partner was advantageous to the other is over. The more the military problems are pushed aside, the broader should be the exchange of scientific finds and technology. "We expect from detente the removal of military categories in relations among nations and between the two military-political alliances, as well as the growth of scientific, technological and economic exchange, he said. [no closing quotation mark as received]

Speaking about the "Mathias Rust case", Strauss spoke against a sensational racket and the fanning of strong feelings around it by the Western mass media.

DPA Reports News Conference

LD301624 Hamgurg DPA in German 1429 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Moscow (DPA)—Bavarian premier and CSU chairman Franz-Josef Strauss is, with regard to the Soviet Union, "deeply convinced of the sincerity of the will for change and of the honesty of the common objective." He was speaking at an international news conference today at the end of his 3-day, first visit to the USSR. [passage omitted]

At the same time, he warned against illusions. The new Soviet policy of glasnost and restructuring is indeed "a sign of a new style", and "much is changing", but he is not one of those who therefore believe in a change in the social system in the USSR. According to TASS, following the talk with Strauss, Gorbachev said: "We do not intend to alter our system."

Strauss said that the agreement on intermediate-range missiles could, despite his continuing reservations, be the "political-psychological start to a disarmament process." Necessary further steps now include a ban on chemical weapons, a 50% reduction in strategic weapons, and a reduction in conventional weapons "to the lowest possible level." These objectives have also been "credibly put forward by the Soviet Union as its objectives." He does not consider it possible "to guarantee the security of Europe without a certain nuclear component."

According to Strauss, the Federal Republic shares the Soviet Union's reservations about resuming production of chemical weapons. Chemical weapons are a "diablolical thing that should finally disappear from military arsenals." He said "we will try to influence our U.S. friends" so that they will also go along "this road" to a complete elimination of chemical weapons, and we will also contribute to ensuring that U.S. concerns about inadequate verification are dispelled. [passage omitted]

TV Interview on Talks

LD302247 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2035 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Interview with Franz-Josef Strauss, Bavarian minister-president and FRG Christian Social Union chairman, by unidentified interviewer; date and place not given; video shows Strauss and interview seated at a table; Strauss and interviewer speak in German, fading into superimposed Russian translation—recorded]

[Text] [Question] What new ideas and impressions do you have following talks with Gorbachev and after other meetings here in Moscow?

[Strauss] You know, in the whole world outside the Soviet Union, and perhaps even in the Soviet Union itself, the questions now being asked are: What does General Secretary Gorbachev want? What do the steps that he has started and that he is implementing mean? What will be their immediate, intermediate, and long-term consequences for all countries and for the whole world? Everyone is concerned with these questions! Where is Gorbachev heading? The objective of this trip at the invitation of the Foreign Economic Commission is not just to get an idea where developments are heading. The issue of my invitation has its own history, which is almost 20 years old. The general secretary is right that without this new policy, this trip and the fulfillment of the planned program would be impossible. We must not approach current developments in the Soviet Union with

Western yardsticks, which express a one-sided conception. The West is inclined to ascribe to Soviet concepts of glasnost and restructuring Western notions, which conform to an completely different way of thinking and arrive at unrealistic conclusions. Disappointment is inevitable because of this. We have tried to accept things as they are. In other words, the Soviet leadership does not intend to give up its system, as is expected by some in the West. It wants to fill the system with a different content, with a different style, and wants to make it more effective. With this is connected an interest in eliminating military tension and warlike thinking. In other words, Mars, the god of war, is moved to the background, and the god of trade is moved to center stage.

We stand at the threshold of a new era. The Washington agreement is not of itself sufficient, for us at any rate. But if the agreement is viewed as the first step, then we Germans must approach relations with the Soviet Union in as positive a spirit as possible.

[Question] During the conversation with Gorbachev, disarmament problems were discussed in detail. After the Washington treaty, what steps do you consider possible and necessary, and what contribution could the FRG make?

[Strauss] I assess [as heard] the Washington treaty from the political point of view, but I do not assess it positively from the military-technical point of view. However, if politics gains the upper hand over military thinking, then that is also a good thing. The Washington agreement does not embrace 97% of the nuclear arsenals. Both intercontinental and tactical missiles can be used against the Germans, against the FRG. They were not involved at all. This means that we are still in mortal danger if a madman or a criminal starts a war. We are aware of this danger, and it is necessary to adopt measures here. We must back the elimination of strategic weapons, the elimination of intercontinental missiles and submarine-based weapons by 50% over 5 years, for example. We must back reducing tactical weapons and conventional arms and a ban on chemical weapons. In a word, it is necessary to achieve an equilibrium sufficient for defense but insuffient for attack. The intention of attacking and the ability to attack would thus be ruled out.

I thus believe that the Soviet Foreign minister was right when he declared during our conversation that we must strive for new agreements, which are important for our security.

[Question] After your many conversations here in Moscow, how do you view the opportunities for expanding relations between the FRG and the Soviet Union in the sphere of the economy, science, technology, and culture, and what contribution can be made here by the Federal Land of Bavaria?

[Strauss] I would like to begin my answer with my beloved Bavaria. You know, despite the fact that we lost 2.5 million people in the war, we in Bavaria have over several years turned from an agrarian region into an industrial one, with a high scientific and technological potential, with such firms as Siemens, engine manufacturers, and many others.

Speaking of trade with the Soviet Union, 85% of our imports from the Soviet Union are composed of oil and gas. These are finished products. We must only buy what our consumers purchase. But the Soviet proposals in many areas do not satisfy us. So, what can we do? In this area we have a great deal of experience, we have an export surplus, more than DM100 million. This is not only thanks to our scientific research, but also thanks to the skills and technical ability of our workers, craftsmen, and artisans. In the Soviet Union—the general secretary knows this better than I—certain problems need to be eliminated.

It is essential to maintain scientific exchange more actively; we had thorough talks about that. We are exchanging economic delegations, and the task is to rectify the situation and set up a normal commodity exchange. The commodity exchange, for example, between France and us is structurally different from that between the FRG and the Soviet Union. If we are displaying an interest in changing the structure of trade turnover with the USSR, not only sentiments of friendship are playing a role here: We are not benefactors, we are acting on behalf of our own vital interests. We know that the stronger the economy of the Soviet Union is, with its population of almost 300 million people, the greater its purchasing power is and the better the Soviet market it for us. We have a reciprocal interest here, and this binds us strongly.

Gorbachev Receives Portuguese CP's Cunhal

LD301810 Moscow TASS in English 1744 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 30 TASS—Mikhail Gorbachev has met at the CPSU Central Committee today with Alvaro Cunhal, general secretary of the Portuguese Communist Party, who is currently on holiday in the Soviet Union.

The leaders of the two fraternal parties exchanged views on a broad range of international issues. They discussed topical questions of the world communist and working class movement.

Mikhail Gorbachev briefed Alvaro Cunhal on how the Soviet Communists, the working people of the Soviet Union work to implement the tasks at the new stage of perestroyka.

Alvaro Cunhal briefed Mikhail Gorbachev on the activities of the Portuguese Communist Party at the present stage of Portugal's development.

The meeting proceeded in an atmosphere of friendship and comradeship, adherence to the party principles characteristic of the relations between the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Portuguese Communist Party. [Moscow PRAVDA's 31 December 1987 issue, Second Edition, in a TASS report adds at this point: ...in an atmosphere of the friendship and comradely party-mindedness (tovarishcheskaya partiynost) characteristic of the relations...]

Italians, Others Changing Tack on SDI

PM311031 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Dec 87 Second Edition p 5

[Nikolay Miroshnik "Commentator's Column": "Did the Premier Slip Up?"]

[Text] Rome—Italian Prime Minister G. Goria has completed a trip to Washington. This visit and the talks that took place during it have evoked intense interest—and not only in the two countries. There are a number of reasons for this.

First, these were the first talks between R. Reagan and a West European leader since the Soviet-U.S. summit. A direct exchange of opinions took place on the situation created by this meeting in Europe and in the world as a whole. Let us recall that Italy was one of the first to advocate in its time the siting of U.S. Pershing-2 and cruise missiles. However, it also called for talks to be initiated with the Soviet Union. Now, as LA REPUBBLICA has written, "the agreement on missiles has split European governments into two categories: those 'cool' toward it and its enthusiasts." In the newspaper's opinion, the Italian Government "must, of course, be considered one of the latter."

This position also emerged at the meeting between the Italian prime minister and the head of the U.S. Administration. G. Goria stated that the document signed during the Soviet-U.S. meeting "enjoys the full support of the Italian Government, which therefore wishes it to be speedily ratified." Another wish was also added to the other—that "the accords secured might be developed, opening up new prospects for talks on nuclear disarmament and conventional and chemical weapons."

A curious detail. In an interview with THE NEW YORK TIMES, the prime minister advocated that the "Strategic Defense Initiative" program (SDI) also be the subject of future Soviet-U.S. talks since this could also promote a reduction in strategic nuclear missiles. However, obviously sensing Washington's dissatisfaction, he then tried to prove at a meeting with journalists that his words had been misquoted and misinterpreted. He "explained" his real position in vague phrases, which a special correspondent for one Rome newspaper assessed none too politely as "acrobatic convulsions carrying little conviction."

A legitimate question arises in this connection. What is the true position of the West Europeans with regard to such an important problem? I believe that G. Goria did not "slip up" in the interview but only expressed a secretly maturing conception found in political circles here (even those who in the not so distant past had a favorable attitude toward the U.S. "Star Wars" plans). The conception is that the "space shield" may be more of an obstacle not for the enemy's missiles but for future progress toward broader nuclear disarmament.

This thought, in my opinion, is quite sensible. You cannot build a durable peace on the planet if "Star Wars" is being prepared in the space above it. It is good that even Washington's closest allies are beginning to recognize this, albeit by way of a "slip of the tongue."

Latin America & Caribbean

Ortega Interviewed on Reconciliation Process

PA302200 Moscow in Spanish to Latin America 0000 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Interview with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega by reporter Yuriy Baranov; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Baranov] Mr President, first of all, we thank you for this interview. We can say the topic we are interested in is receiving wide coverage: It deals with Central America and Nicaragua, with the Esquipulas agreements, and with the national reconciliation process generated by those agreements. What are the specific features of that process in Nicaragua? What are its objectives and the bases with which to make this process feasible?

[Ortega] In Nicaragua we are (?complying with) the Esquipulas agreements. We can affirm that Nicaragua is the leading Central American country in complying with those agreements. It has created the National Reconciliation Commission, headed by Cardinal Obando y Bravo. Nicaragua has called for a political dialogue with all the opposition's political groups in the country. This has been done so their viewpoints and opinions can be expressed and so the government can listen to and take into consideration whatever it deems convenient. All this has been done within a constitutional framework.

We have also worked hard to reach a cease-fire agreement and [word indistinct] Cardinal Obando y Bravo as mediator with the U.S. Government [word indistinct], an instrument of aggression against Nicaragua, so Cardinal Obando y Bravo could be the mediator. However, the United States is torpedoing those peace efforts. It is not in favor of the Guatemala agreement and specifically is making efforts in Nicaragua to take advantage of the political opening created by virtue of the Guatemala agreement to carry out a plan they call Nicaragua's Chileanization.

In other words, using the opposition parties, the rightist media sources, and other groups identifying with imperialist policy, the United States is trying to promote a plan for internal destabilization in our country to complement mercenary activities. Because those mercenary groups are incapable of defeating the Nicaraguan Revolution, they are trying to create popular unrest promoted by the CIA, domestic agitators, and media sources owned by businessmen in our country. Under such conditions, with domestic unrest provoked by [words indistinct] in Nicaragua, in addition to the mercenary forces' activities, the plan seeks to create a favorable climate for a U.S. invasion. Right now the U.S. Congress continues to approve new funds for the mercenary forces, as a result of the great pressures exerted by the U.S. President over Congress.

[Baranov] Now, regarding the domestic opposition and the Chileanization of Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board [CDN] did not participate in the 1984 elections. However, that organization has now proposed in Caracas to create a government of national unity, arguing that this fully complies with the original government plan.

[Ortega] Well, the CDN is an instrument of imperialist policy. It decided not to participate in the elections. The political parties making up the CDN are now participating in the national dialogue, so the businessmen are [word indistinct] in the political dialogue. Those businessmen are represented in the political parties; their political views are reflected by those political parties. Therefore, the position of the CDN and some political parties in regard to the national dialogue, the attitude of some media sources totally opposed to the revolutionary process, is the same as the U.S. Government's (?position). Therefore, we are afraid that if these rightist, and some leftist, groups do not participate in the dialogue in a serious, responsible way, we might reach a deadlock. Talks could then become stalemated, or they may have to face the people's reaction. The Nicaraguan people definitely will not tolerate their use of the political opening, created in good faith in accordance with the Esquipulas agreements, to implement a counterrevolutionary plan to create conditions for a U.S. invasion.

[Baranov] Regarding the Nicaraguan Government's initiative of offering the opportunity to the contra leaders to discuss a cease-fire, we know the contras have made a counterproposal. What points in that counterproposal (?will be negotiated?)

[Ortega] The Nicaraguan proposal is based on a cease-fire. The U.S. counterproposal made through the contra leaders includes points that are the responsibility of Central American governments, such as arms and foreign military advisers. According to Point 7 of the Esquipulas agreements, this topic must be discussed by the Central American governments. In other words, it is not a matter to be discussed by the Central American governments with the armed groups. They have also included political aspects that, according to the Esquipulas agreements, are to be discussed solely with unarmed groups, with those who have accepted amnesty. Therefore, [word indistinct] a discussion regarding the cease-fire, and logically, we will not consider them. They have also included other points having to do with the cease-fire. However, they condition those points relating to the cease-fire on implementation of the other points having to do with weapons and political aspects. In other words, they mix up topics [word indistinct] government, and this contradicts the letter and the spirit of the Guatemala agreements. Through Cardinal Obando y Bravo we sent them a [word indistinct] list, in which we asked them to clarify specific points. We have asked them to be more specific so we may have a clear picture of their proposal and their position, and so we may determine whether they are willing to agree on a cease-fire.

[Baranov] A current topic also included in the Esquipulas agreements is democratization. How does the revolutionary government view this matter with the present circumstances in Nicaragua?

[Ortega] Well, the workers are an example. Nicaragua is a democratic nation, a really democratic nation in the true sense of the word, based on the real meaning of democracy, which is people's power. Nicaragua became a democratic nation for the first time in its history on 19 July 1979. So Nicaragua's democratization occurred the moment the workers, the great majority of the people, achieved power. We have created a greater political opening for political groups opposed to the revolutionary process, opposed to the revolutionary process [Ortega repeats himself]. Within the Esquipulas agreements, that is what is regarded as giving the opposition groups an opportunity and opening to exchange ideas and express their viewpoints. We are not afraid of that. However, we do not feel that it is a substantive part of democracy, because Nicaragua's democracy was instituted from the moment the workers, laborers, and peasants assumed power. There is democracy in Nicaragua with or without the opposition groups. The revolution, as one of its characteristics, has implemented a pluralistic system that allows opposition groups to participate so they can express their views and contribute [to the process] in a patriotic way. The Nicaraguan Revolution has made that possible. However, we will not allow, in the name of democratization, rightist groups to entrench themselves to [words indistinct] in favor of U.S. aggression.

[Baranov] Some people say, and use this for propaganda, that the interests of the two superpowers, the USSR and the United States, clash here in Central America, particularly in Nicaragua. It is said that if the USSR suspends its military aid to Nicaragua, the situation will be settled. What can you say in that regard?

[Ortega] Well, if the USSR suspends its military aid to Nicaragua, logically the situation will be settled in favor of the United States, because they would again become

the owners of Nicaragua, as they were before the triumph of the Nicaraguan Revolution. There is no East-West confrontation here. In other words, there is no U.S.-Soviet confrontation here, because the USSR does not have, so to say, interests in Central America that it must defend. Meanwhile, the United States does have such interests, such as its interest in owning and controlling the Central American economy and exploiting those countries. That has been the U.S. policy in Central America: to exploit the Central American peoples. The USSR has only given its cooperation to the Nicaraguan people, at the request of the Nicaraguan people. It has given us economic and military cooperation. Therefore, there is no such clash between the USSR and the United States [words indistinct] Nicaragua to the United States. The USSR is simply giving its cooperation to Nicaragua. Surely, if we were not dealing with a war, the level of Soviet military cooperation to Nicaragua would not be as high as it is now and would be transferred to the economic field.

[Baranov] During the 3-day Soviet-U.S. summit in Washington, there was much talk here in Nicaragua in the mass media and in the streets regarding this meeting. What is the importance of this summit, and how would you relate it to the regional conflicts, and specifically, to the Nicaraguan situation?

[Ortega] It should have a positive effect, because it contributes to an overall detente. Although only 4% of atomic weapons are affected by these agreements, which is a minimal amount, it is a historical step. This was possible thanks to the goodwill and flexibility of the USSR, because its counterpart, the United States, still maintains its projects to militarize space. So in overall terms, logically if there is detente, and a specific step is taken in favor of disarmament between the USSR and the United States, it should also have generally favorable repercussions. In other words, it should strengthen negotiated solutions; it should strengthen solutions through dialogue with the United States and USSR as examples. However, we should realize that the United States has a very adventurous, reckless policy. Hence the United States could feel that after signing those agreements, they are free to attack Nicaragua, which is located in an area they view as their area of influence. Therefore, the threat of an invasion by U.S. troops in Nicaragua could be greater. That is why our Defense Ministry has proposed to have up to 600,000 men ready for combat in our country. We are not (?talking about) an army of 600,000 men as the U.S. press and some U.S. congressmen have been distorting. Our country cannot have an 600,000-man army. We are talking about having the people at battle readiness. Therefore we would like to prepare all the Nicaraguan people in order to face a possible U.S. invasion.

[Baranov] Thank you, comrade president, for this interview.

Ortega Says U.S. 'Sabotages' Peace Efforts

LD301530 Moscow TASS in English 1441 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Managua December 30 TASS—President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua has stated that the Reagan administration sabotages the Central American peoples' efforts aimed at achieving lasting peace in the region in accordance with the Guatemala accords.

In a talk with journalists following his meeting with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, he laid the blame for the frustration of the latest round of the talks on a ceasefire in Nicaragua on contra leaders who in collusion with Washington seek to prevent the implementation of the peace agreement.

The United States, Daniel Ortega said, blocks the initiatives of the Central American countries and urges the contras on to terrorist acts against Nicaragua in an obvious attempt to make it abandon the talks and to get a pretext for the granting of new appropriations in aid to the contras.

Despite provocative actions by Washington and its hirelings, the Government of Nicaragua will continue to make maximum efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement, the Nicaraguan president pointed out.

He said that common opinion had been expressed during his meeting with the cardinal about the need to carry on the talks with the contras on a ceasefire, the talks which are held with the mediation of this religious figure.

The Nicaraguan Government suggested holding next round of the talks in Belize or Panama not later than January 15 because a meeting of the presidents of the five Central American countries is scheduled for that day. Miguel Obando y Bravo is to coordinate this question with representatives of the contras.

Touching upon the problem of combatting the energy crisis being experienced by Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega pointed out big assistance being rendered to the republic in this field by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

They were the first to respond to the Nicaraguan Government's appeal for help, and provided it with additional amounts of oil which helped the republic to hold out in the conditions of the U.S. imperialist aggression and economic blockade, the president of Nicaragua emphasized.

CPSU Greets Castro on Liberation Day

LD311411 Moscow TASS in English 1358 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 31 TASS—The CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the USSR have sent a

congratulatory telegram to Cuban leader Fidel Castro on the occasion of the national holiday of the Republic of Cuba—Liberation Day. It says that truly fraternal relations based on common goals and ideals have developed between the USSR and Cuba over the time that has elapsed since January 1, 1959.

The message notes Cuba's indisputable successes in solving cardinal social problems. It expresses support for Cuba's consistent policy aimed at consolidating the positions of socialism, removing the threat of a nuclear war, achieving real disarmament and extending assistance to the peoples of the emergent states.

"People in the world well know and praise Cuba's efforts to establish a new world economic order, attain a fair solution to the developing countries' foreign debt problem and forge the non-aligned movement", the telegram says.

Political & Social

PRAVDA Sees Lessons in Tajik Cencom Plenum

PM301500 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Dec 87 Second Edition p 2

[Special correspondents O. Latifi, V. Loginov report under the rubric "Party Life: Reports of Elected Organs": "The Lesson of Dushanbe"—first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] In covering the course of the reports of elected party organs on work in leading the restructuring, PRAVDA has already noted several times how important it is to discuss these reports in the spirit of Bolshevik frankness, constructive criticism and self-criticism, and profound analysis of practice. Criticism here must be businesslike, principled, and personal. It is not much use if, as was the case, for instance, at the Tajik Communist Party Central Committee Plenum held in Dushanbe, it is "indulgent" and superficial, or if self-criticism is purely formal, for the sake of scoring points. The observations below are devoted to the "lesson of Dushanbe."

Dushanbe—the Tajik Communist Party Central Committee had never before received such extensive and interesting mail as on the eve of the discussion of its bureau's report on work in leading the restructuring. People—communists and nonparty people—responded animatedly to the proposal to share their thoughts by way of preparations for the plenum. Hundreds of letters arrived. When they were studied, it was noticed that a significant proportion were devoted to cadre problems, which, to be frank, were "dismissed" in an unjustifiably cursory manner in the Central Committee bureau report published beforehand in the republican newspapers, although it did show some concern about the state of affairs.

What did people write about? Many wrote that it is time at last to put an end in the republic to violations of the Leninist principles of selection, placing, and education of cadres. Not infrequently these violations are founded on unsuitable "traditions" whereby some people, invested with power perhaps on the basis of kinship, home-town patronage, or personal loyalty to someone or other, were able to lord it like beys, while the others, subordinate to them, silently bowed their heads before them. And frequently such things were received here as if they were only fitting. Today people in the party organizations and labor collectives are declaring more and more loudly: Enough! And what does the bureau report say? A quick patter about "positive changes in the cadre corps." Followed by a short, one-sentence thesis: "Opposition to stagnation phenomena, favoritism, home-town patronage, and parochialism has been stepped up." But has it been stepped up as much as it should? What has the bureau done and what does it intend to do to eradicate chronic negative phenomena? Why is the gulf between slogan and action still great? Unfortunately the report contained no answers to these or a number of other questions.

Incidentally, not long before the plenum, in the spacious, austere hall where it took place, there sat more than 200 agitated inhabitants of Gissarskiy Rayon. And two members of the Central Committee bureau spent nearly 4 hours listening to their complaints and demands. Demands which amounted to this: Remove the rayon leadership. Democracy? It is true enough that a year ago such a meeting simply could not have happened. But this is the point. Earlier, representatives of another local community had forced the party raykom (although this, as is well-known, is not its function) to relieve the leader of a certain enterprise of his duties. Now, in revenge, envoys from the opposing party put forward their ultimatum. And if you read the letter from Khodzhenskiy Rayon in Leninabad Oblast to the plenum, you find that there too, for a long time, the Urunkhodzhayev Kolkhoz has been in a fever because of factionalism and local ambition. And neither the raykom nor the obkom, try as they might, can even begin to quell the conflict.

K. Makhkamov, first secretary of the Tajik Communist Party Central Committee, mentioned these two instances in his introductory speech at the plenum. While acknowledging that violations in the promotion of leadership cadres are no rare occurrence even today, he basically confined himself, as has happened more than once before, to calling for a quest for "resolute, principled approaches." Yet similar instances were also mentioned by participants in the discussion of the report. For instance, A. Rakhmonova, first secretary of Leningradskiy raykom, had a very unexpected explanation for the lamentable state of health, education, and culture facilities in the rayon. Adolat Rakhmonovna stated that it is all because the higher bodies distribute quotas, stocks, and material and technical resoruces on the basis of kinship and acquaintanceship. Was she laying it on too thick? No, nobody even attempted to object.

And here are some examples in the same vein. At the Tajik Medical Institute several dozen faculty leaders, professors, and lecturers and more than 100 students are linked by kinship ties. And many had come to believe that the fathers' merits are automatically extended to the children, who are therefore more frequently than "outsiders," admitted to the party and granted the right to retake examinations so that they can then be publicly presented with "top diplomas." Or take the recent "discovery" by Central Committee workers: Only 4 of the 14 directors of the republic's canning plants have the appropriate education for their posts. People in Tajikistan say that "you don't just happen to land" a post like that. And if an incompetent person has landed a post not appropriate to him, the question naturally arises: Who fixed him up with it? But neither the bureau report nor the debates contained a single mention of the name of any of the "benefactors" or of those who connive with them "from above."

"I would put home-town favoritism," P. Luchinskiy, second secretary of the republic Communist Party Central Committee, said in the debate, "at the top of the list of all the obstacles to the implementation of cadre work. It has serious socially harmful consequences, for instance, first, a milieu is created that favors parochialism, national narrow-mindedness, and exclusivity, and, second, general republican interests and the sense of true patriotism are eroded..."

Bold and principled? That is probably how such statements would have been assessed comparatively recently. But times have changed! Today it is not enough to show boldness merely by mentioning the legacy of stagnation which, lamentable as it is, has been censured by many people before you. The republic Communist Party Central Committee Bureau proved patently unprepared to offer the plenum a clear program for overcoming distortions in cadre policy. It was clearly no accident that some of the speakers proposed as a panacea for all evils the following method of combating home-town favoritism, nepotism, and other defects: Restrict the tenure of an elected post to one term instead of two. As if this "restrictive" measure in itself could put an end to them.

The Central Committee bureau, the report said, has introduced democratic principles to the practice of forming the cadre reserve. And yet, the speakers noted, a reserve is precisely what is lacking. In less than 2 years more than 60% of raykom and gorkom secretaries have been replaced. Where have the new recruits come from? Nearly all the communists now elected secretaries were co-opted onto the committees.... Characteristically, several speakers immediately came out in favor of creating a reserve of future leaders on the basis of serious—rather than formal, as at present—discussion of the candidacies in the primary party organizations and labor collectives, and also in the local press.

It is well-known that the report sets the tone for the discussion. And special demands are made on the report on work in leading the restructuring. It acts like a mirror, reflecting the "face" of the elected organ and its leading nucleus. Their position. The report of the republic Communist Party Central Committee Bureau, packed with generalizations and reiterations of appeals seemingly borrowed from old protocols, testified rather to the self-satisfaction of the leading nucleus than to its desire to step up the pace.

The assessments which the bureau members made of themselves and each other in the report were glib and evasive, with a strong flavor of self-esteem fostered by the habit of not spoiling relationships with people on the "top story" and regarding the sweet incense of deference from below as the natural consequence of recognition of one's services. Whether willingly or not, as A. Khisamutdinov, first secretary of Isfara party gorkom, put it, they thereby once again removed themselves from criticism, or at any event were not exactly burning with the desire to call down its fire on their own heads. Another old habit also played a part—that of "issuing instructions" and reading lectures to others. Reading lectures when you should be reporting on your own work. And judging by the debate, this had a disorienting effect on many people, or at least made them inclined to engage in routine discussions about "anything and everything" in connection with the concrete practice of the Central Committee bureau, except perhaps for references to the importance of the plenum's agenda.

The plenum sat for 2 days. Some 50 people spoke. It was the first time so many had spoken. And for the first time microphones were installed not only on the presidium and the rostrum, but in the auditorium too. But it was by no means the first time that many people, whether ministers, party workers at oblast or rayon level, or enterprise directors, had confidently used the rostrum to publicize their own achievements, plans, and requests and demands for "help, assistance, and understanding of the situation." True, Sh. Kalandarov, minister of light industry, was cut short by the presidium. But even after that incident first one, then another continued in the same vein, sprinkling their speeches with expressions of wishes that a certain bureau member would "be more exacting," "not take on other people's concerns," and so forth. They did a bit of criticizing, showed due respect to their comrades...

But what is the value of the kind of "criticism" whose style is perhaps best demonstrated in the speech by A. Kasimov, first secretary of Kurgan Tyube party obkom? This speech is all in one vein: a few sentences about the oblast's problems, and—a nod to the people at the top. Comrade so-and so knows our problems, but fails to show persistence in helping us. A second comrade and a third "know," but they too are not persistent.... A compliment, then a smiling reproach; a compliment, then a parasitical request. In this way the speaker named "in critical terms" a total of... 12 people. Including seven members of the Central Committee bureau. And he did not attempt to analyze the activity of even one of them, but again and again handed over the concerns of his obkom to the Central Committee and republican organs.

"Concrete, purposeful assistance has nothing in common with the petty tutelage that is sometimes engaged in by the organizational work department and its chief Yu. Sukhov," V. Lyapin, secretary of Leninabad party obkom, said from the rostrum. "Central Committee departments control many things—the timing of party committee plenums and the agendas for meetings of primary party organizations. The resolution of cadre questions is dragged out and made excessively complex by dragging it through several different bodies."

We must agree that this approach is far more justified and useful in discussing the bureau report. But all the same, let us make it clear: To whom was the criticism addressed? To bureau member Yu. Sukhov. But not to him as much as the departments. That is, the apparatus.

And it is logical to suppose that the apparatus is excessively concerned with petty tutelage of party committees because it has not been given a different work style by the Central Committee Secretariat and Bureau. We can say more: At the plenum in Dushanbe, the urgency of the problem of the relationship between the staff apparatus and the elected organ was affirmed yet again. For many years (and not only here) they have changed places, as it were: The apparatus attached to the collegial organs often commands the latter, takes their place, or even ignores them. Is not that why it was mainly the Central Committee departments, along with ministries and departments, that were reproached for shortcomings in the Central Committee Bureau report and the debate?

The Central Committee Bureau members had the opportunity to channel the discussion in the direction of searching analysis of their own activity and collective elaboration of ways to radically improve it. Most of them took part in the debate, but this had no tangible influence on the course of the plenum. They did not all consider it necessary self-critically to enlarge on the vague assessments of them in the bureau report. And the spirit of yesterday ran through the speech of Secretary V. Vakhidov, who is in charge of the agro-industrial complex—a speech full of figures and peremptory directives.

The admission by G. Koshlakov, candidate member of the bureau, that he assesses himself far more severely than in the document submitted for discussion was rather the "exception to the rule." The speaker openly mentioned the shortcomings which are preventing him, as first deputy chairman of the republic Council of Ministers, from working in the new way. Koshlakov mentioned appositely that after the congress it was decided to hold regular Central Committee Bureau sessions with no agenda, so to speak, at which it was proposed to hold a frank exchange of ideas and concerns and make comments on each other. One such session was held. And that was the end of it. In his opinion this practice should be revived. A reasonable proposal.

On the eve of the plenum we talked with some of the "rank and file" members of the Tajik Communist Party Central Committee and read their reactions to the bureau report, which had already been published then. Our notebooks record: "As a Central Committee member I was given no specific instructions to prepare questions for plenums, and therefore I was unable to participate actively in their work. A. Soliyeva, worker at a cotton ginning association"; "There is not much consultation with us when decisions are taken. I. Akhrorov, excavator operator (Khodzhentskiy Rayon)."

Now let us look at the long list of speakers at the plenum. On the whole, it was leadership workers who mounted the rostrum. And not a single worker or ordinary kolkhoz member. True, two team leaders spoke—Z. Gulova from the Ordzhonikidzeabad 22d Party Congress Kolkhoz and A. Anisimov from the Stroymontazh Administration, which is in Tursunzade. But even they used their allotted time for merely a cursory enumeration of economic questions. People on the republic Communist Party Central Committee are now saying: We made a blunder by not letting the "rank and file" speak. And apparently not many of them go on to think about whether this "blunder" is the result of the underestimation, on the one hand, of that category of members of the elected organ, and, on the other, of the role of the primary party organizations in the restructuring.

...So it turns out that neither the publication of reports in good time, nor 2-day debates, nor the installation of extra microphones in the hall, nor any other organizational innovations constitute restructuring in themselves. Because this is only the form. And unless that form is filled with a content appropriate to the spirit and tasks of the times, all the efforts made will only mimic, and not make, not create a restructuring. Is this not the essence of the lesson of Dushanbe?

Azerbaijan CPCC Dismissals, Appointments

NC311148 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 1700 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Excerpts] The plenum held by the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee on 28 December discussed the tasks of the republic's party and economic organs related to the realization of the decision adopted by the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers Presidium in connection with the implementation of measures required for improving tea plantations and upgrading the quality of tea in the Soviet Union. Kyamran Bagirov, first secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee, addressed the convocation. [passage omitted]

The plenum adopted a decision on the matter. The participants in the meeting also discussed organizational topics. In view of their appointment to other posts, the plenum relieved R.D. Mamedov, chief of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee Science and Education Institutions Department, and Vafa Gulizade, chief of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee Culture Department, of their responsibilities. It appointed Aliyev to the post of chief of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee Science and Education Institutions Department and Mustafazade to the post of chief of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee Culture Department. Atanasev, who is a responsible functionary of the CPSU Central Committee, participated in the work of the plenum.

Armenian, Turkmen Central Committees Plenums

PM310916 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Dec 87 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Following a Course of Acceleration"]

[Text] Increasing the effectiveness of organizational work and making the restructuring dynamic and consistent on the basis of methods appropriate to the nature,

scale, and novelty of the tasks ahead—that is the main demand made today on the activity of party organizations and their leading organs. This was stressed on 26 December at plenums of the Armenian and Turkmen Communist Party Central Committees, which discussed the reports of the Central Committee Bureaus on work in leading the restructuring.

Yerevan—it was noted in the report by K.S. Demirchyan, first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee, and other speeches that the principled conclusions drawn from the criticism of the Armenian republican party organization and its leadership at the CPSU Central Committee June Plenum helped to increase the political and social activeness of communists and working people.

The factors delaying the restructuring were analyzed from a standpoint of high exactingness and mutual demandingness. It was noted, in particular, that not all the party gorkoms and raykoms and primary party organizations are improving the forms and methods of organizational activity and ensuring wide glasnost and openness, and that poor use is made of criticism and self-criticism.

The plenum participants devoted great attention to questions of the transfer of enterprises and associations to economic accountability and self-financing.

Ashkhabad—the course of resolutely overcoming stagnation processes and accelerating the republic's socioeconomic development requires a further stepping up of the activity of the collective organ of party leadership as a whole and each of its members individually, it was stressed at the Turkmen Communist Party Central Committee plenum by the keynote speaker S.A. Niyazov, first secretary of the republic Communist Party Central Committee, and other speakers. It was noted that the Central Committee Bureau has not yet fully succeeded in ensuring a restructuring of the style and methods of political leadership of party, soviet, and economic organs or achieving profound qualitative changes in the economy and the social sphere. There was a searching discussion of major shortcomings in ideological work and the lack of an effective, aggressive struggle against vestiges of the past, drug addiction, and unearned income.

Union Republic State Oil Committee Abolished

LD292013 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 29 Dec 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has abolished the Union-Republic State Committee for the Supply of Petroleum Products of the USSR.

PRAVDA Editorial on Multinational Soviet State

PM300956 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Dec 87 Second Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Born by the Peoples' Will: Union of Free and Equal Republics"]

[Text] "Entirely voluntarily, without deception or coercion..." So said V.I. Lenin of the unification of our country's free nations after the victory of Great October.

Lenin's prediction came true. In the course of the joint revolutionary struggle the liberated peoples stretched out toward unity and unification, and rallied more closely around the Russian Federation, which was the prototype of the Soviet Union. Then, 65 years ago, the First All-Union Congress of Soviets unanimously adopted the Declaration on the Formation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The multinational nature of our state is an important factor in its might and dynamism. The successes of the party's nationalities policy are indisputable, and we are rightly proud of them. The pooling of the efforts of the nations and ethnic groups of the USSR multiplied their potential for resolving political, economic, social, and cultural tasks. This did not happen of its own accord. The Communist Party ensured the implementation of a policy based on recognition not only of legal equality, but of actual equality of the peoples and their right to free, comprehensive development.

The USSR develops as an integral organism. The firm material base for strengthening friendship and cooperation is the integrated national economic complex. This not only provides the country's aggregate might, but also makes it possible to develop each republic's economy at an accelerated rate on the basis of the strengthening of effective ties and mutual assistance and allows each republic autonomously to resolve questions of economic and social development specified by the USSR Constitution.

In the conditions of the radical restructuring of the economic mechanism, the role of republican organs and local soviets increases. The party sets the task of creating a management system which accords with the new principles of economic management and the nature of economic methods and which clearly demarcates the spheres of competence and responsibility of republican and central organs of management. Here priority is given to all-union interests. Economic and social tasks must be resolved from statewide standpoints, not permitting manifestations of parochialism and parasitism. Herein lies the guarantee of the dynamic development of each republic and of the country's entire national economic complex. This is an important manifestation of internationalism in action.

Socialist democracy plays a great part in strengthening the unity and fraternity of the Soviet peoples. The more democratic the life of the country and each republic, the greater the force binding the working people of all nationalities. The 27th CPSU Congress set the task of ensuring active participation by citizens of every nationality in the work of all components of power and management. The composition of the leadership cadres in each republic should reflect its nationalities structure. But here a mechanical approach is impermissible. It is necessary constantly to observe Leninist norms in the selection, placing, and education of cadres: People must be assessed according to their political, practical, and moral qualities.

In the conditions of the expansion of democracy in production, the question of who leads the team, shop, kolkhoz, and sovkhoz is not a matter of indifference to people. The collective should be headed by those who can organize work on the basis of the principles of economic accountability and resolve tasks in such a way as to ensure high end results. After all, this will directly affect the income of every working people and the prosperity of the family, the republic, and the country.

The economic and social progress of the USSR's nations and ethnic groups is accompanied by the flourishing and rapprochement of their cultures. National culture is a treasure which must not be lost. But culture does not, by its nature, tolerate exclusivity. A healthy interest in everything of value in each national culture must not degenerate into national arrogance, conceit, or pride. National assets are constantly renewed and enriched by the achievements of the cultures of all the nations.

The growth of democratic principles in the socialist society is prompting animated discussion of the processes of the spiritual life of nations and ethnic groups. Thus, in many letters to PRAVDA readers reflect on the interaction of the national and Russian languages. And that is only natural. Language is the most important means of intercourse, it is part of a nation's spiritual wealth. It links man to the people's creativity, the national culture. But a legitimate love for your native language should not turn into linguistic chauvinism or stand against internationalization. The main avenue of the development of languages in the USSR is bilingualism in the national language and Russian. And Russian, as the language of intercourse between nations, is an important means of giving the masses access to the culture of the peoples of the USSR and the world.

The experience of socialist building in our country has demonstrated the effectiveness of the Leninist nationalities policy, the effectiveness of the Soviet national state system. But life does not stand still. The national composition of the union and autonomous republics and okrugs grows more complex. Their rates of economic growth and social development are not always coordinated in the best possible way. The rise in national self-awareness generates heterogeneous processes in the sphere of spiritual culture. Of course, there were and are contradictions here. But whereas formerly they sometimes were merely noted, or even, at times, hushed up, now the time has come for resolute, practical actions. We must, however, remember V.I. Lenin's warning that the resolution of problems between nations requires extreme caution and tact. We must not permit violations of national equality and justice, "even if only through carelessness, even if only in jest."

Anticommunist ideologues attempt to play on the negative phenomena in this extremely sensitive sphere of human relations and to fuel and inflame nationalist and chauvinist sentiments. Extensive and systematic ideological subversion is carried out and the press and mass media are used to this end. In the West and also in the East there are still considerable numbers of people who would like to undermine the friendship and cohesion of the USSR's peoples. And Soviet law, which protects the gains of the Leninist nationalities policy, must stand guard here.

The struggle against both national nihilism and chauvinism, whatever forms they may take, is fundamental to the traditions of the Leninist party. Nationalist epidemics can be successfully resisted only by consistent internationalism, the improvement of relations between nations, the strengthening of the peoples' friendship, and internationalist education. Party committees, soviets, trade unions, and the Komsomol are called upon to develop in Soviet people, especially young people, a sense of pride that all our country's peoples belong to one big international family, that they are an integral part of the great socialist power that holds the leading place in mankind's progress. That is Soviet patriotic education.

Born by the peoples' will, the USSR has traveled a path of great deeds. Our achievements are weighty, significant, impressive. This is the foundation for further progress along the path of restructuring. The continuation of the ideas and practice of Leninism and October is the essence of today's tasks and concerns, the moral duty of every citizen of our multinational motherland. The implementation of the party's line will make the socialist fatherland even richer and stronger, Soviet people's life even better, and our development even more dynamic.

Operation of Individual Labor Law Criticized

PM301441 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Dec 87 Second Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "At the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. On the Work of the Cherkassy Oblast Soviets of People's Deputies in the Implementation of the USSR Law "On Individual Labor Activity" and the Development of Cooperatives]

[Text] As reported earlier, the question of the work of Cherkassy Oblast soviets of people's deputies in the implementation of the Law on Individual Labor Activity and the development of cooperatives was discussed at a session of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium 18 December.

A resolution adopted on this question notes that the Cherkassy Oblast soviets of people's deputies, guided by the directives of the 27th CPSU Congress amd the subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums on the need to satisfy more fully the Soviet people's requirements for various kinds of high-quality goods and services, have carried out a certain amount of work in the development of individual labor and cooperative activity.

Since the USSR Law "On Individual Labor Activity" came into force, the number of citizens engaging in individual labor in the oblast making clothes, footwear, joinery goods, carrying out house repairs, and providing transport and other services to the population has increased from 800 to 3,200.

Some 95 cooperatives have been set up, 48 of them in the consumer services sphere. By way of assistance to citizens and cooperatives credit to the value of R125,000 has been granted, and premises, equipment, and various appliances are being hired out. A list of individual labor activities which it is most expedient to develop has been drawn up and brought to the population's notice. An inventory of nonresidential premises has been carried out in order to make them available to citizens and cooperatives. In 50 stores, sales of goods produced by cooperatives and citizens have been organized, market stalls have been made available, and fairs and sales-exhibitions of goods of this kind are being organized.

However, only the first steps have so far been taken in the development of individual labor and cooperative activities. Serious shortcomings still exist in the work of the oblast's local soviets in this sphere. The goods and services provided by citizens and cooperatives account for less than 1% of the total volume of goods and services and have had little appreciable impact on satisfying the population's requirements. In the current year only R3 million-worth of goods and services has been produced.

The population's demand for services, especially in the sphere of the construction of summer houses and repairs of household appliances, radio and television equipment, furniture, and cars is not being met. The oblast's potential for the involvement of pensioners, the disabled, and housewives in individual labor and cooperative activity is not being used. Of 250,000 nonworking pensioners only some 1,200 people engage in individual labor or cooperative activities.

The leaders of Kanevskiy, Lisyanskiy, and Chigirinskiy Rayispolkoms, a number of economic organizations, and territorial organs of the Ukrainian SSR State Committee for Material and Technical supply have failed to adopt measures to render concrete assistance to citizens who have expressed a desire to engage in individual or cooperative labor and are intolerably slow in tackling questions of providing them with premises, raw and other materials, instruments and equipment.

The trade in production waste, and especially in farms' unused commodity and material assets, is poorly organized in the oblast. The value of production waste amounts to millions of rubles, but sales total only hundreds of thousands of rubles. Local construction materials are totally underused.

The soviets of people's deputies reponsible for the state of affairs in this sphere have failed to carry out the necessary work in explaining the importance of the measures being carried out in the country to develop individual labor and cooperative activity in order to ensure the fuller satisfaction of the population's requirements for goods and services.

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium noted that major shortcomings in the development of individual labor and cooperative activity exist also in other oblasts, krays, and republics.

In the country as a whole many soviets of people's deputies are poor at organizing the production of essential goods and services for the population. They have failed in this respect to implement the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and USSR Council of Ministers resolution "On measures to further increase the role and enhance the responsibility of soviets of people's deputies in the acceleration of socioeconomic development in the light of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress." They use inadequately the potential of both the individual and the coooperative form of labor activity. In all, just over 300,000 people engage in individual labor and there are only some 9,000 cooperatives employing around 90,000 people. Cooperatives account for less than 0.04% of the total volume of goods and services sold to the population. This situation is at variance with the requirements of restructuring, which is the Soviet people's main concern, and with the role of the soviets of people's deputies in the implementation of social policy.

The local organs of power frequently display a lack of initiative and sluggishness in tackling questions pertaining to the development of individual labor and cooperative activity, considering it a matter of secondary importance. Many people's deputies are not involved in the solution of this important task. Neither is the potential of trade union, Komsomol, and other public organizations being used.

There are many instances of a formal bureaucratic attitude toward citizens who express the desire to engage in this kind of labor, of impermissible red tape in the provision of registration documents and licenses. Citizens and cooperatives are not provided with the necessary assistance in their production activity and the marketing of finished products. In connection with this, many cooperatives that have been set up essentially fail to function.

The country's financial and law enforcement organs and local soviet ispolkoms do not properly monitor the observance of the legislation on individual labor and cooperative activity and have failed to established the necessary cooperation among themselves in this work.

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has instructed Cherkassy Oblast soviets of people's deputies and the oblispolkom:

in light of the need to ensure as swiftly as possible the satisfaction of the population's requirements for goods and services, to step up their work in the development of individual labor and cooperative activity;

to seek the broader involvement in individual labor and cooperative activity of the section of the population which is not engaged in social production;

to assist cooperatives and people engaged in individual labor activity in every way in the acquisition of raw materials, instruments, equipment, local construction materials, and the hire of premises, and also in marketing the finished products;

to efficiently coordinate the work of state and economic organs in the implementation of legislation applicable to this sphere;

to brief the population more fully on the legislation on individual labor and cooperative activity and on the types of work and services provided by cooperatives and citizens engaging in individual labor in an effort to ensure strict compliance with the procedures established by law.

The Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium is instructed to pay constant attention to the development of cooperative and individual labor activity with a view to the fuller satisfaction in all parts of the republic of the population's requirements for goods and services; and to develop these types of activity bearing in mind national traditions, people's experience and skills, and the prevailing natural conditions.

Union and autonomous republic supreme soviet presidiums, local soviets of people's deputies, and prosecutor's office and people's control organs are instructed to adopt effective measures to ensure unconditional compliance with the stipulations of the law on individual labor and cooperative activity, rigorously upholding the rights of citizens and cooperatives.

In the implementation of this work the proposals of citizens, trade union and Komsomol organizations, and labor collectives, as well as public opinion, must be taken fully into account.

The Cherkassy Oblispolkom is instructed to report to the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium on the implementation of this resolution in January 1989.

Gromyko Presents Top Awards in Kremlin

PM301545 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Dec 87 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Presentation of Awards to Heroes"]

[Text] A.A. Gromyko presented the motherland's top awards to a group of heroes in the Kremlin 29 December.

An order of Lenin and a "Gold Star" medal went to Hero of the Soviet Union Senior Lieutenant V.F. Goncharenko, and orders of Lenin and "Hammer and Sickle" gold medals went to Heroes of Socialist Labor—K.P. Batyuk, director of the Bucha 8-Year Boarding School for orphan children and children left without parental care; Ye.A. Klimenko, director of the No 2 Children's Home in the city of Biysk, Altay Kray; A.P. Khlebushkina, director of the Tashkent No 22 Children's Home; Yu.F. Bugakov, chairman of the "Bolshevik" Kolkhoz in Novosibirsk Oblast's Ordynskiy Rayon; the director O.N. Yefremov; and N.S. Kolpinets, turners' team leader at the Far Eastern Plant [Dalzavod] named for the USSR's 50th anniversary.

Speaking in connection with the award presentation, A.A. Gromyko said:

Dear Comrades!

Today awards are being presented to a hero of the Soviet Union and six heroes of socialist labor.

The motherland sings the praises of Hero of the Soviet Union Vladislav Fedorovich Goncharenko and, through him, our internationalist servicemen on Afghan soil who set an example of courage, valor, and heroism. I wish to draw your attention, Comrades, to the fact that he is the 67th hero of the Soviet Union to receive the motherland's highest combat award for an exploit in assisting the fraternal country.

Today is in some sense special. By coincidence, exactly 8 years ago the Soviet Union responded to the Afghan Government's requests by extending a fraternal hand of assistance to that country's people. Side by side with servicemen of the Afghan Army the limited contingent of Soviet troops came to the defense of Afghanistan's independence and security. For it is a neighbor of the Soviet state.

Everything our servicemen are doing to give assistance on the fraternal people's land is an exploit. Their military labor will go down as a bright page in the Soviet Army's annals and in the history of Soviet-Afghan relations.

I would like to point to a special category of heroes among those receiving awards today. There are three of them. They are Konstantin Pavlovich Batyuk from Kiev Oblast, Yekaterina Andreyevna Klimenko from Altay Kray, and Antonina Pavlovna Khlebushkina from Tashkent.

As you see, they live at different ends of the country and had never met each other before coming here, to the Kremlin. Nevertheless, they are united by a lofty feeling, probably the most noble feeling a person has—love of children. What is more, they have extended this fine manifestation of high spirituality to many children and borne it throughout their life.

Each of them has devoted and is devoting the warmth of his heart and the strength of his mind and talent to hundreds of our country's small citizens who have been left without parents. Many of these boys and girls are already grown up. And does the word "father," applied to you, Konstantin Pavlovich, and the word "mother," applied to you, Yekaterina Andreyevna and Antonina Pavlovna, not sound like a gift from their lips?

The Soviet state shows tremendous concern for the coming generation. It is a touching and palpable concern for every child. However, this concern is manifested through contact with a specific, close adult. Those children are fortunate who have fallen into the hands of such kind and generous people as our heroes of labor today.

Among those awarded the high rank of hero we see representatives of our glorious working class and working kolkhoz peasantry. They are Nikolay Sergeyevich Kolpinets, turners' team leader from Vladivostok, and Yuriy Fedorovich Bugakov, chairman of the "Bolshevik" Kolkhoz in Novosibirsk Oblast.

Although they work far from Moscow, beyond the Urals—one in Siberia, the other on the Pacific coast—the fact that precisely they have received heroes' stars and Orders of Lenin shows that we do not have unknown and, as it is sometimes customary to say, "Godforsaken" corners. Wherever a person works, if his labor is vivid, inspired, and spirited, the motherland will always notice it and assess it on its merits. And not only assess it but also hold it up as an example to others.

Among the heroes of labor the actor and director Oleg Nikolayevich Yefremov has received an award today. I believe that his appeal can be summed up in two capacious words—nationwide favorite. And this will accurately describe the attitude of millions of viewers who see his work on cinema screens. He also devotes his heart and talent to the world-famous Moscow Arts Academy Theater, where his gifts as a producer have been revealed in full measure.

Dear Comrades, I congratulate you all on receiving these high awards. May they be a stimulus for your new successes in labor.

I convey to you congratulations on behalf of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the Soviet Government. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev sends you his cordial congratulations.

Today is a festival in your families and your labor collectives. I would very much like there to be more people such as you at this glorious time for our country of impressive restructuring. This will be so, will certainly be so. You are all our people's priceless asset.

The award recipients warmly thanked the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the Soviet Government for the high assessment of their activity.

Present at the award presentation were P.N. Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; T.N. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; and other officials.

Shcherbitskiy Commemorates Ukraine's Jubilee

AU300906 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 25 Dec 87 p 1

[RATAU report: "Tribute of Love and Respect"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] On 24 December, on the eve of the 70th anniversary of the proclamation of Soviet rule in the Ukraine and of the formation of the Ukrainian SSR, the inhabitants of Kiev gathered at the monument to V. I. Lenin to pay tribute of love and respect to the founder of the Communist Party and the Soviet state.

At 1230 V. V. Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary; I. A. Gerasimov, Yu. N. Yelchenko, Ye. V. Kachalovskiy, B. V. Kachura, V. A. Masol, V. P. Mironov, I. A. Mozgovoy, V. A. Sologub, A. A. Titarenko, V. S. Shevchenko, S. I. Gurenko, V. A. Ivashko, Yu. A. Kolomiyets, V. D. Kryuchkov, and Ya. P. Pogrebnyak, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo members and candidate members, appeared at the monument to V. I. Lenin.

To the majestic melody of the song "Lenin Is Always With You" rising over Kreshchatik, the leaders of the republic's Communist Party and government put a basketful of flowers at the pedestal of the monument. [passage omitted]

On behalf of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, Supreme Soviet Presidium, and Council of Ministers flowers were laid at the monument to the Great October Socialist Revolution. [passage omitted]

The participants in the ceremony of flower laying then moved to the Square of Glory. The eternal flame glows there at the Grave of the Unknown Soldier as a symbol of the people's memory. The leaders of the republic's Communist Party and government laid a wreath at the Grave of the Unknown Soldier. [passage omitted]

Dolgikh, Shcherbina Attend Power Day Soiree

PM301602 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Dec 87 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "In Honor of the Holiday"]

[Text] A ceremonial soiree devoted to Power Industry Day was held in Moscow 22 December.

On the Presidium were V.I. Dolgikh, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, B.Ye. Shcherbina, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, leaders of ministries and departments, production frontrunners, scientists, and representatives of the capital's public.

A report was delivered by A.I. Mayorets, USSR minister of power and electrification.

Dolgikh Visits Keremovo Oblast Facilities

Metallurgical Combine Visit

LD231853 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 23 Dec 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Vladimir Ivanovich Dolgikh is in Kemerovo Oblast. He visited the Zapadnosibirskiy metallurgical combine today.

The Zapsib is rightly called the flagship of Siberian metallurgical works. The business image of this collective is one of high-quality output and precise fulfilment of contractual obligations. Vladimir Ivanovich Dolgikh met the collective of blast furnace No 1. This unit recently came out of capital overhaul and has become more powerful, more conventient to run, and more economical as a result. This is not accidental. The slogan of restructuring at the Zapsib is "no capital overhaul without reconstruction."

In the conversations Vladimir Ivanovich Dolgikh had with the furnace workers, steel sorkers, rolling mill operators,and engineers at the combine questions of building and assimilating new equipment and of scientific and technological re-equipment were raised. Creative groups working on the development and introduction of new, more advanced technology have been created in many production units at the combine. For example, innovators in the steel-smelting unit have achieved the lowest expenditure of pig iron in the country. Modernization of the steel-smelting units has helped to increase output of finished metal, improve its quality and sharply reduce the production of unordered output.

Vladimir Ivanovich Dolgikh drew the matallurgists' attention to improvement in the quality of metal. Taking care about the technical aspect of the matter, Comrade Dolgikh stressed, the workers at Zapsib must not lose sight of other, no less important matters, such as organizational work, work with people, and universal economic education.

Tours Novokuznetsk Buildings

LD242139 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 24 Dec 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]; video report by N. Chirkov, identified by screen caption]

[Text] Vladimir Ivanovich Dolgikh's journey round Kemerovo Oblast continues.

[Chirkov] Today Vladimir Ivanovich Dolgikh acquainted himself with the new buildings of Novokuznetsk. He visited the Novoilyinskiy microrayon, which has become the scene of the largest housewarmings in recent years. The microrayon is around 10 years old; its population is 50,000. They are mainly workers from Zapsib, the Kuznetsk metallurgical combeine, and miners. Up to 2,500 families move into new flats here each year. But here are still not enough social and domestic facilities—schools, shops, medical institutions and cultural establishments. Many inhabitants of the mikrorayon spoke about this to Vladimir Ivanovich Dolgikh during personal conversations. Now the situation is changing for the better: A detailed plan for the microrayon's development has been compiled with the active involvement of the population and deputies of local soviets. Among this year's new buildings are a children's library, a school, a youth club and the "ZOLUSHKA" cafe.

On the same day, Vladimir Ivanovich Dolgikh acquainted himself with progress in the reconstruction of the Kuznetsk metallurgical combine. Technical renewal of the enterprise has now begun. In order to cut the reconstruction period, it was proposed to combine the design and construction work; but in the operations of those involved in the construction there was not enough coordination, efficiency and interest in accelerating matters. Business contacts with related enterprises have not bee established. As a result, the schedules for supplies of construction materials and equipment are being ruined. In order to prevent rush work and storming at the end of the reconstruction, as often happens, it is necessary to do the maximum possible right now. Comrade Dolgikh

stressed in conversation with specialists. The reconstruction of the Kuznetsk combine requires more intensive speeds, for we are talking about one of the highly important new construction projects of the quinquennium.

A meeting took place between Vladimir Ivanovich Dolgikh and managers of the oblast's metallurgical enterprises at the Novokuznetsk town party committee in the second half of the day. Preliminary results of the work of the metallurgical sector of the Kuzbass in 1987 and the readiness of enterprises for work in conditions of complete financial autonomy and self-financing were examined.

Meets Mining Officials

LD260942 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 25 Dec 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast; report over video]

[Text] Comrade Dolgikh's visit to Kemerovo Oblast continues.In the late evening of 24 December we received this report from Prokofyevsk:

At the Prokovyevsk Gorkom, Vladimir Ivanovich Dolgikh held a conference with the secretaries of the party organizations of the mines and coalfields of Prokovyevsk, Kiselevsk, and Novokuznetsk. The party committee and restructuring: This was perhaps the main topic at the conference.

[Begin Dolgikh recording] You are all very well aware of the kind of revolutionary process that is taking place in our country, the process we have called restructuring. It is a revolutionary process which has extended to all spheres of our society and which is developing, deepening, and assuming, I would say, an increasingly creative character. The economy is the main field of activity of our party, and consequently the question of moving the economy onto the rails of intensive development is taking on the nature of a mass issue. It touches the interests of millions and tens of millions of working people. It follows that the results of our work in this sphere assume not only an economic, but also, to a considerable degree, a social and political character. And the work fo the primary levels of our party—the primary party organizations, the party committees of enterprises—assumes first-class importance. Comrades, we must sharply step up our work at this particular time, and the task facing the party organizations is to head the restructuring processes now. [end recording]

[Correspondent] But things are not going well everywhere. Almost 30 coal enterprises are lagging behind their yearly quotas. For this reason, the coal industry of the Kuzbass is losing a large amount of coal. This is especially intolerable with the transition to the new methods of management. So the party committees, too, are failing in their duty. How can matters be put right? Many urgent and strongly-held opinions were expressed. Here are but a few: Make the study of economics obligatory for all. Transfer the center of party work to the party groups, so as to give prime importance to the individual and his attitude to the task.. Public opinion must become a sensitive tuning-fork of party work, so that there may be more clerks of the works [proraby] of restructuring in the Kuzbass—knowledgeable, economically competent, and involved.

Leninskiy rayon is the youngest on the map of Kemerovo. And it is possibly the biggest as regards the number of housewarmings. This year nearly 3,000 families will put up their new year trees in new apartments. Vladimir Ivanovich Dolgikh visited a new polyclinic. It has been built at the center of a large housing area, and serves 25,000 inhabitants. The city's first day hospital has been pened at the polyclinic. There are prophylactic departments. In one of the consulting-rooms, computers have been installed to help the doctors to carry out a general medical survey of the population. Vladimir Ivanovich Dolgikh visited one of the city's building sites. He took an interest in the quality of housing and the level of amenities. In Sholgotaryan mikrorayon, named in honor of its Hungarian twin town, Comrade Dolgikh visited a new supermarket. After conversing with the townspeople, Vladimir Ivanovich Dolgikh drew attention to the disproportion between the building of housing and of public amenities. One of the city's biggest new buildings is the Oktyabrskiy sport and concert complex. Vladimir Ivanovich Dolgikh watched a training session for young figure-skaters and visited the sport school of the production association Azot. This splendid palace has room for 5,000 people.

On the same day, Vladimir Ivanovich Dolgikh met the collective of the joint control center of the power systems of Siberia. The panels here receive information from all the grids of the electric power stations of the Siberian region. In conversation with specialists, there was discussion of questions of scientific-technical progress, the transition to the new management methods, and ecological problems.

Dissidents Transferred to Mental Homes

AU301651 Paris AFP in English 1629 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow, Dec 30 (AFP)—Two Soviet dissidents were forcibly transferred to psychiatric hospitals last week, one of whom was released Monday, dissidents told Agence France-Presse here Wednesday.

Lev Ubozhko, a former political prisoner and human rights militant, was arrested on December 24, and sent back the next day to the same psychiatric hospital at Chelyabinsk in the Urals from which he had been released early this year, editors of the dissident newsletter Express-Khronika said.

Another dissident, Nikolay Margolin—a member of the Moscow Human Rights Group—was forced into a psychiatric home at Lvov, in the Ukraine, last week "while he was investigating the use of torture in prisons," a member of his rights group said.

He was freed Monday, Valeriy Senderov added.

Kazakh Komsomol Leader on Restructuring
PM231353 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 17 Dec 87 p 1

[Interview with Sergazy Kondybayev, first secretary of the Kazakh Komsomol Central Committee, by correspondent A. Lapin in Alma-Ata, under the rubric "'Dialogue' Political Club": "Don't Wait—Work!"—date of interview not given; first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Excerpts] In order to play an active part in the restructuring of society, the Komsomol must restructure itself, as the 20th Komsomol Congress noted. Sergazy Kondybayev, first secretary of the Kazakh Komsomol Central Committee, describes the development of this process in Kazakhstan.

Alma-Ata—Some time ago, restructuring in the Kazakh Komsomol appeared stillborn. This is why the lag is now being made up in the republic.

[Lapin] Sergazy! How are you personally restructuring your own work?

[Kondybayev] Personal restructuring depends largely on the tasks that have to be solved. The most important job now is to shift the center of gravity of work to the primary level. Hence the conclusion: Travel to places as often as possible, have a perfectly thorough knowledge of the local state of affairs. Consequently, I spent all of October on official travel.

Personal example is needed everywhere. Initially, when the principles of glasnost and democracy were only just beginning to establish themselves, each critical statement was perceived by everyone literally as a revelation. And those who were able to criticize were deemed good workers. But today this is not enough.

[Lapin] Many people reasoned as follows in the wake of last year's events in Alma-Ata: Komsomol leaders proved unfit for office. Therefore, a general purge of cadres must be organized. But the Central Committee did not take this step. Why?

[Kondybayev] It is not right to say that we have done nothing as regards cadres renewal. Some people left of their own accord, unable to meet the new demands, while others, frankly speaking, were asked to leave. Some Komsomol organizers failed to pass their certification and also fell away. So there have been changes in the cadres structure. But the general slaughter that some people predicted and hoped for did not take place. And I believe that this was the right thing to do. The causes of the events a year ago have been revealed on several occasions. So I will not repeat myself but will simply say that the December events did not occur only because of shortcomings in Komsomol work.

It is important to realize that cadres reorganization will not automatically solve the problems of restructuring. We all lived in the time of stagnation and we experienced for ourselves, in one way or another, its spirit and its shortcomings. Therefore it is impossible to nurture cadres who are immediately prepared to live and work in the new fashion. Hence the conclusion: What we need, figuratively speaking, is not arithmetic but algebra of work with people. To seek capable and extraordinary young leaders and to nurture—literally painstakingly nurture—them into youth leaders. [passage omitted]

[Lapin] What is happening to those who participated in last year's December events?

[Kondybayev] We are far from indifferent regarding the future of those guys. The most active participants in the hooligan actions have been punished under criminal law. The remainder were punished along Komsomol and administrative lines. Individual work was done with them. Those expelled from educational establishments have been given jobs in production. Many are filing applications for readmission to the Komsomol. Every such application will be carefully examined by primary organizations.

I believe that our task is to help those guys acquire real values in life.

[Lapin] Questions of international education.... How do Komsomol committees participate in this process?

[Kondybayev] Much depends on whether social justice has been revived in society. It is, after all, no secret that in certain circumstances even everyday life problems could acquire a national overtone. Therefore, the actual process of cultivating internationalism must not be detached from the overall state of affairs. [passage omitted]

[Lapin] What worries you most as first secretary of the Kazakh Komsomol Central Committee?

[Kondybayev] Drug addiction. Today I perceive that this is an iceberg which, under the influence of glasnost, has started really coming to the surface. Considerable energy will be required to melt this iceberg down. We have had our first seminar on this problem. We briefed our Komsomol aktiv on the state of affairs. Now we are organizing work at local level. [passage omitted]

Correction to Solovyev Address

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Solovyev Addresses Vyborg Gorkom Plenum," published in the 29 December Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page 65:

column one, paragraph one, sentence one: ...[Text] Today, plenums of CPSU gorkoms and raykoms of Leningrad Oblast discussed restructuring. Communists-...(rephrasing)

Economic

Problems of Economic Reform Discussed

PM301355 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 51, 20 Dec 87 p 8

["'MN' Round Table" feature by Vladimir Guerevich: "Rights"]

[Text] Notes from a Round Table conference of economists, sociologists and economic managers sponsored by the Institute of Sociological Research of the USSR Academy of Sciences and the Novosti Press Agency.

What is Fedor Rudnik, Deputy Director-General of Frezer, Europe's biggest instrument-making association, sorry about? That he was born too early. And that he will not be able to work as long as he would like to in the new conditions which, he hopes, will arise with the development of the reform and which have already appeared in some aspects.

I want to note this optimism not because the topics to be discussed below will mainly amount to the problems and contradictions of the reform. It is nourished by the newly-emergent possibility to wage a struggle for it: glasnost, the Law on the Enterprise (even if not an ideal one) and the collapse of the "absolute truths", with the appearance of which the struggle automatically came to an end.

The reform generated hopes, but at the outset it clashed with two powerful opponents. The burden of old problems shouldered by the economy, which—whether you like it or not—will restrict every new step. The system of management, which Professor Erik Pletnev defined as a kind of "state-monopoly" system not so much rejects the new methods in the open as seeks to digest them in its own juice.

It is perhaps correct to say that the keynote of the Round Table was that any attempt to shut the eyes on the reality will be the first step in the retreat from the reform. Nor does the New Year night from the 31st to the 1st promise any miracles: No gifts are expected with the transition to the new conditions. Full cost accounting is not a gift, but a gain that is still to be made.

"The worst thing of all would be to sow illusions and present successes in eliminating elementary mismanagement as the success of the reform as such," said Professor Nikolay Shmelev. "I am convinced that the process will be longer and more complicated than it seems to many; to believe that it will already be possible to sound the kettledrum in two or three years from now means to doom oneself to disillusionment well in advance."

To make haste at a slow pace? No, rather to see where we are. Then not to stay in this state. It is possible to break down the old mechanism before applying the new one, maintains Professor Ruben Yevstignetyev, but if the passage is delayed and a stop is made on this bridge, then we must understand that it is capable of bearing this heavy weight only for some time. It cannot be jumped over at once, but what is needed is to make as broad a step as possible.

First 'Records' [subhead]

The participants in the Round Table stated that resistance was mounting as soon as a transition was made from words about the reform to deeds. In the new year the plan submitted from above—a state order which is now called a "contract"—will make up the overwhelming part of the programme for the enterprises (Rudnik: "In relation to us it is 92.5 per cent, practically all the rest being package"). There are record-breaking ministries which submitted assignments to enterprises for 105-110 per cent of their capacity.

Other records relate to profit, or rather its withdrawal: Some will be left with 10 per cent of what they earned. The true scope of this levy can be understood by remembering that now neither a million nor a kopek will be given from above—it's self-financing. It is a boon. It is also evil: Given today's handling of the magic wand known as "norms", it is possible both to dress up and to strip naked. The fiscal traditions of management are perhaps the strongest and most harmful in going over to management via interests.

It will be recalled that we have "squeezed ourselves" into the current five-year period. Besides, every enterprise is going through as before with its own "luggage." Hence the inevitable adaptation of new instruments to the existing reality. Another thing is dangerous. This justification arises: The track is deep, they say, we can't swing off it. Isn't it clear: Unless we try to separate grains from weeds and conception from circumstances, we shall drive along the same track from the current five-year period into the next one?

From Where? To Sell? [subhead]

Let us not pretend that all enterprises are literally burning with a desire to embark upon the new road. As it was pointed out by Oleg Yun, deputy department head at the State Planning Committee of the USSR, the malcontents include both those who received state

orders "head over heels" and those for whom it will make up only a small fraction of the programme. Independence entails questions: What shall we load the capacities with, where shall we get the resources from, who will buy? It is indeed far from easy to get resources insofar as we do not yet have wholesale trade. But this question is interesting: Who is going to buy?

The reform must bring about a situation where the problem "from where" will be replaced by the question "where to sell". This problem of the future is topical today as well. It is simply concealed by the financial and supply mechanism. If salesmen really owed their livelihood to what customs pay, and if the latter could reject what salesmen impose upon them, we would have seen at once how many "products" (and not only footwear and combine harvesters) cannot become "commodities". Because overproduction in our economy is as real as deficit—moreover, the former daily breeds the latter.

In part this is due to another problem which Nikolay Shmelev spoke about. How to combine perestroyka and acceleration? Concerns for the mastering of the new mechanism with concern for the growth rates? In what do we want to achieve acceleration? High technology and fundamentally new mechines—there is no question about this. But there are products in relation to which a "slow-down" is advisable. Those, who bring assignments to enterprises, have remained targeted on "gross output", and this sets the pace for the life of work collectives.

Those who took part in the Round Table did not identify the 18 million managers of all ranks with opponents of perestroyka. The managerial personnel deal with what logically follows from the existing system of management. A different hierarchy must spring to life in the new system. We have not yet given proper thought to the meaning of the contention that the enterprise is the "basic unit". From this it follows that the other units (it is horrifying to pronounce this) are ancillary: They must help the basic unit plus take over whatever it will not be able to do.

"We are still apprehensive to touch the ministries and government departments," said Vladimir Tikhonov, Full Member of the All-Union V.I. Lenin Academy of Agricultural Sciences. "We merge six into one, three into two, change the order of subordination, but reserve the main thing for them: functions, directive planning, and distribution of resources. There is a need to cardinally modify these functions, and then, incidentally, the question of cutting down the apparatus will be solved on its own. Otherwise there will be no way to get rid of departmental monopolism." What should these functions be like? The development of promising technologies, the study of the markets and resources, forecasts and information. A variant is probably also possible when enterprises will voluntarily, on an installment basis, create their own partners and charge them with concerns which are beyond the power of each of them taken separately.

We have the Law which speaks about mutual responsibility of the enterprise and the administrative agency. As things stand now, this is a one-way street. For the time being, it is considered "natural" if the state order arrives to the tune of 100 million roubles and the resources for it—to the tune of 90 million, and if the statute, which will determine things from the New Year, is received together with the striking of the chimes. But already there is not only the text of the Law, but also specific facts showing that the enterprises are ceasing to resign themselves to this. How will the mechanism of the ministries' responsibility be realized in this case? This is one of the many questions which are brand-new for our economy and to which there has been no answer so far.

Forward, To Brave The Problems [subhead]

"Today all of us have been carried away by exposing the past," said Ruben Yevstigneyev, "but in so doing we should see to it that we don't miss the new problems; including social ones. There is a need to go and meet their challenge instead of pretending that they do not exist. Prices, inflation, redundancy-all of this can be solved only by taking them up."

No one put ready-made recipes on the Round Table, but alternatives were offered. If subsidies are cancelled, then—besides additional payment to wages, pensions and grants—other measures can also be taken. For instance, increasing the interest ratio on the money in savings banks or lowering maximized prices of many industrial goods. "Observance of social justice must be the criterion of any of these measures," said Professor Vladimir Smolyanskiy, the anchorman of the Round Table. "But what do we understand by this? For instance, the proposal to direct practically the entire sum of the compensation to the low-income groups of the population. In this case at the same enterprise skilful workers will receive the minimum, and auxiliary workers-'super-compensation'. In effect, this is the same wage levelling which we want to escape from under the new conditions. But in the given case it is possible to escape from it by paying precisely equal compensation. Then no one will lose and no one will get the money not earned by them."

All the participants without exception agreed that the reform would not require a "sacrifice" such as the emergence of unemployment. But the problem of job placement cannot be solved automatically, as in the past. The economic mechanism will in itself assist in releasing the work force. In industry, said Oleg Yun, development is already due entirely to the growth of labour productivity, that is, the number of the employed, which previously tended only to grow, has been stabilized. And this will be followed by a reduction in the number of

those employed in material production. They will be taken over by the non-productive sphere and the sphere of the services in the broadest sense of this term. But a state system for this redistribution is only beginning to be created.

"We can really solve these problems," said Yevgeniy Antosenkev, Director of the Research Institute of Labour, "but it must be honestly said that so far people are unprepared for this. The release and retraining-...There was an altogether different mentality. A second question. There is also a need to see what production stands to gain or to lose. An experiment was carried out on the Belorussian Railway, then it was introduced in the entire system of the Ministry of Railways. Some 280,000 people were released, and already the plan of the five-year period for the growth of labour productivity has been overfulfilled. But has the situation on the railways improved? Anyhow, releasing is not a campaign, not a slogan and not an aim. The supreme purpose of the reform is common sense...."

Our well-known economist, Academician Aleksandr Anchishkin, no longer with us, was showered with questions about a reform of the Soviet economy during his trip to the USA. He said at that time: "We ourselves have more questions than answers." We probably sin against the truth if we say that today this balance has been radically tipped in favour of answers.

Still, I think that Fedor Rudnik is right in believing that the ice has been broken. I shall venture to state my own supposition. We have possibly managed to provide the new conditions with a mechanism of slef-development or, rather, one of its elements which is beginning to chop off and then break the ice.

The old maxim that rights are not given but taken is acquiring new relevance thanks to self-financing. Let it still be relevant. It already possesses energy. The enterprises are rapidly coming to understand (and those who have not yet—will understand) that they are being taken off the allowance and that now the treasury is not a wet nurse for them. Under the new regulations, even the banks will no longer reserve money to pay wages with, and if there are debts—raw materials and other supplies have not been paid for—it will be necessary to wait a little longer at the cashier's. In other words, a fairly rigid financial discipline is being introduced. In this sense one part of the new conditions formula—"higher responsibility of the enterprises"—is being materialized. In this situation the enterprises will themselves begin to realize the other part of the formula—"broader independence"—demanding this from others.

Previously directors bought a ticket to Moscow to sue and procure, now they go to demand at the State Arbitration that the Law should be observed. Have you carefully read the Law? Yes, but before that we have calculated what the work collective will live on if arbitrary practices are accepted.

The struggle for cost accounting, for the acquisition of rights by non-economic methods? But legitimate.

Head of New Foreign Trade Bank Appointed

LD301631 Moscow TASS in English 1507 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 30 TASS—A new specialized bank, the Bank for Foreign Economic Activity of the USSR, starts operations in the Soviet Union from January 1, 1988.

The USSR Council of Ministers today appointed Yuriy Moskovskiy chairman of its Board.

Moskovskiy was born in 1942, graduated from Moscow's Financial Institute, worked at the bank for Foreign Trade of the USSR between 1965 and 1971, and at the USSR Council of Ministers since 1971.

Lately, he was engaged at the Foreign Economic Commission of the USSR Council of Ministers where he was in charge of currency and bank issues.

Scientific

Further on 'Soyuz TM-3' Crew's Return to Earth

'Irritated' at Mission Controllers

PM301415 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Dec 87 Morning Edition pp 1, 3

[Special correspondent A. Ivakhnov report: "Return of the Earthmen. Reportage From Mission Control Center"]

[Excerpts] The news had just been released in the main hall of the Mission Control Center: Yuriy Romanenko, Aleksandr Aleksandrov, and Anatoliy Levchenko are back on their native earth. [passage omitted]

Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Aleksandrov had packed their baggage. Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov had unpacked, settled in, and taken over the controls. All of them together found time for research work and experiments. The work also went well because all three members of the "Okean" crew, to the medical staff's amazement, felt no ill effects from getting accustomed to weightlessness and did their full share of work in orbit from the very first days.

Nonetheless, the last day before the landing of the "Taymyr" crew saw... a revolt aboard the spacecraft. Specialists at Mission Control Center were constantly grabbing the communications microphones to ask the "Taymyr" crew to confirm that they had not forgotten to load into "Soyuz TM-3" various results from experiments conducted in conditions of weightlessness. Irritated voices were heard from orbit following yet another such question:

"Get all superfluous personnel out of the control hall. We have our instructions, and everything will be delivered in the best possible condition. Since yesterday we have been rushing around like squirrels in a wheel. Experiments, comments on experiences, loading—you name it; we have been doing it. We have still not had time to pack our personal things. And you are distracting us with unnecessary talk...."

"The relief crew will have it easier," the communications operator attempted to placate the "Taymyr" crew, "because they will be instructed by Yu. Romanenko and A. Aleksandrov from Mission Control Center, and the 'Okean' crew themselves will have accumulated a certain amount of experience. You must also see things from our viewpoint: This is the first complete change of crews ever; obviously your program was overloaded."

"That is all very well, but perhaps experiments should not have been planned during the period of joint work...."

As is always the case before the conclusion of a lengthy mission, Academician O. Gazenko, director of the Medical-Biological Problems Institute, had a chat with the cosmonauts. He reminded the "Taymyr" crew that, following a lengthy stay in conditions of weightlessness, they would experience overloading at the descent stage and the effect of the earth's gravity after landing. [passage omitted]

After the communications session, Oleg Georgiyevich told me that throughout the mission Yuriy Romanenko was distinguished by diligence, accuracy, and reliability in the performance of all procedures recommended by medical staff. It is understandable that the results of this mission will be particularly valuable for us. If Yu. Romanenko's condition after the mission differs from what was predicted, this means that the prophylaxis used was insufficiently effective for such lengthy missions, and we must continue looking. [passage omitted]

News Conference Held 30 Dec

LD310240 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1835 GMT 30 Dec 87

[Report on news conference held at Baykonur Cosmodrome on 30 December with deputy chief of the cosmonaut training center Aleksey Arkhipovich Leonov, and cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko, Aleksandr Aleksandrov, and Anatoliy Levchenko—recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified announcer] After the completion of their lengthy space flight, Yuriy Romanenko, Aleksandr Aleksandrov, and Anatoliy Levchenko met journalists at Baykonur Cosmodrome. The record for human space endurance was established during the flight. Journalists called it the "Romanenko phenomenon." Opening the news conference, Aleksey Arkhipovich Leonov, deputy chief of the cosmonaut training center, noted that the previous day it had already been determined that all the members of the crew feel well.

[Leonov] Our comrades got out of the bus, sent everyone on ahead of them, went to their rooms by themselves, undressed and had supper. This morning they started to carry out the entire program of medical observations. They shaved standing up and washed standing up. Then they went and gave blood. During this we noted no increase in the pulse rate or perspiration, as has happened before.

[Announcer] Naturally, the first question asked at the news conference was addressed to Yuriy Romanenko, who had spent 326 days in space.

[Romanenko] Of course, it is not that simple, and it is no phenomenon. The fact of the matter is that it is indeed a success for our Soviet space medicine. We had a great desire on this flight to try to carry out from start to finish the entire program suggested by the medical specialists as regards physical loading and exercises and to keep our bodies in exactly the state resulting from the completion of the program suggested to us by the doctors. We succeeded in carrying out this program on board the "Mir" complex, and this has given us satisfaction and pride, all in all. The physical training and the foodstuffs, and food with special balances of vitamins and salts and some special supplements, and the new special suits for combating the load on returning to the atmosphere— all this clearly had good, positive results. Of course, having carried out the proposed program on board, we can hand over to medicine the necessary information they have been waiting for and which, of course, will be used in the future. We know and feel, we are sure, that we shall not stop at this 300-day flight. The next comrades will take it further and, of course, much is being said about Mars. For us, Mars is getting nearer and nearer to Earth, and this is like the latest step. We are pleased that we have carried it out and completed it. This will without doubt help all our comrades who will fly further, higher, and more interestingly.

[Announcer] The next question was for Aleksandr Aleksandrov.

[Unidentified reporter] Sasha, how do you feel?

[Aleksandrov] I feel well: I mean that subjectively, and, as far as I can gather from the odd bits of information I have heard and seen regarding our medical opinion, the experts also believe that our condition is good. I must say that we today—and especially Yura with his length of stay in flight, his period in orbit—I must say that today there is a further improvement in our condition, even though it was quite good even yesterday.

So this is an evident fact. This phenomenon might indeed exist for people who are not quite initiated in the theory and practice of our work: maintaining people's state of health in flight.

I should indeed like to stress what Yura said about training on earth and the implementation of the program he fulfilled during the course of the flight to keep his muscles in tone and to maintain his state of health. It was very important here to adopt a definite program, one which really suited the individual. He adopted the program he believed he needed, considering his fitness, his age, and other parameters. As far as I could see for 160 days, he scrupulously worked on this program. It was simply astonishing how conscientiously and single-mindedly, and with what willpower, he did this, because getting on the running track and running the 4 k we are obliged to run every day remains the most difficult thing for us in flight. A certain amount of willpower had to be exerted for that, of course. So, having experience of past flights, like him, I also wondered what program I should choose.

On earth we also sought advice from specialists and selected approximately the same program. But I selected one of lesser intensity in order to understand how far it is possible [changes thought] well, I ran, as it were, my own experiment—how far it is possible to give a load that is lower than the maximum level. In this way, we obtained, as it were, a double experiment. Yura was proceeding not at the maximum but with a rather heavy load; I was just a little below that. But if it is carried out regularly and meticulously, this program, and with good supervision, and, of course, observing everything Yura said regarding nutrition, the general condition aboard, the psychological climate, well, all this produces its, as you say, striking effect. Today we are not jumping, and we are not running only because, well, we are pursuing the same medical policy: not abruptly starting to walk, not abruptly starting sudden out-and-out sports movements, even though we are capable of walking in the street and...

[Unidentified correspondent, interrupting] And to go in for even more?

[Aleksandrov] And to go in for even more, on the whole, especially as there was no question at all of some vestibulary disorders. Well, we are of course glad of this. But I am certain that this was the case precisely because, first, due to previous experience, and, second, because of the scrupulous fulfilment of the charted program.

[Unidentified correspondent] Anatoliy Levchenko turned out to be probably the most laconic participant in the news conference, and he had a story to tell despite his brief stay in orbit. However, what was most interesting was after the landing. The point is that almost at once he was entrusted with the control stick of the aircraft, and he passed this test with flying colors. Replying to questions about how what he felt during this time and about what he experienced in space, Anatoliy answered in two or three words. In this situation, just as during the flight, Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Aleksandrov came to Anatoliy's assistance.

[Romanenko] Anatoliy joined in so well here; as a space novice, he joined in so well with the crew. One feels that he has such great flying experience and such good practical grounding. In space he was very much part of the crew, involved in the work of the five-member crew aboard the "Mir" complex, as one of the guys in a good, practised, cohesive collective.

On the other hand—perhaps we are now all the time at this news conference concerned with questions of how we felt—we are absolutely not concerned with the results of the flight, or with the difficulties or with all programs carried out on board. But, on the other hand, he fitted in so well with our working collective that on board it took only a hint to understand one another. What is most revealing is that the crew worked efficiently the first time, carrying out at once a real descent from orbit in one spacecraft. Never before had the three of us met at a training session or anywhere on earth before this, prior to the real descent. What we got was, and as the crew's commander this is my assessment: efficient reports, precise understanding of the operation of the equipment, and an efficient distribution of duties. Our work itself during the descent is fairly complicated. Even the change in g-loads gave pleasure to the entire crew.

[Aleksandrov] I wish to add that during the descent I was watching how Tolya was reacting to all the upheavals occurring during the descent. I would also like to note that he was doing this as if he had been through this before.

[Announcer] When the time set aside for the meeting with the journalists was drawing to an end, the floor was again give to Yuriy Romanenko, the crew's commander.

[Romanenko] This year has meant a very great deal for the whole of Soviet cosmonautics, a very great deal, beginning with the launch of EO-2, our abbreviated term for this main expedition No 2 to board the then still basic "Mir" block. This year was marked by the fact that in the orbit of an artificial earth satellite such a interesting complex—the "Mir" basic block and the Kvant module—was formed, assembled, something that was done for the first time in the history of Soviet cosmonautics. It is a complex which in the future will serve very interesting research, research in space.

The year ends with the fact that it can be reported with all confidence, with full responsibility, to all specialists, Soviet specialists in cosmonautics, and to the entire Soviet people that the flight program aboard the "Mir" complex has been fulfilled in full and with very good results.

In conclusion, I would like to wish the entire Soviet people successes in the forthcoming year, successful implementation in the new year of all these decisions and tasks which the party is setting us at such a strenuous moment for our country.

Moscow TV Shows Cosmonauts

LD301841 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 30 Dec 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpt] [Unidentified announcer] The first 24 hours back on earth: Here is a report from Baykonur.

[Unidentified correspondent] From past experience with manned space flights, it is well-known that on the 1st day after landing, the emotional lift helps the crew. The cosmonauts want to get up, to gesticulate actively. In general, they cause the doctors a lot of worry. The next day, as a rule, there is a sharp drop in activity, in effect a deterioration. You can imagine that when we came to the cosmonauts' hotel early this morning, we were told: Do not look for the commander here; Romanenko has gone for a walk.

We captured this scene in the park: Yuriy Romanenko and his wife, and, of course, crew Doctor Ivan Matveyevich Reznikov were no doubt measuring off their first 100 steps. See how confident those steps are. Medical examinations alternate with periods of relaxation. The children and wives have just not had time for a long chat with the cosmonauts. [video shows cosmonauts undergoing checks, wires attached to various parts of the body as doctors check readings on instruments; cut to Romanenko and wife strolling in park with a few other people accompanying them; Romanenko's wife has her arm linked with his but he appears to be walking very confidently]

Even at the news conference today, the families found it hard to leave the crew. The crew's entering the hall and the conversation was a very interesting one. We will bring you just a small fragment of it. [video shows the three cosmonauts followed by others entering room and taking seats at front table]

[Begin recording] [Romanenko] Well, in general, after such a long flight—326 days—I feel fine. I can speak confidently because prior to that I had a 96-day flight. True, it was 10 years ago, but I have the chance to compare how I felt 10 years ago and how I feel now. I feel fine, fine inasmuch as it is possible to speake objectively, subjectively, or with confidence about this. But the doctors will give a more objective picture about my condition.

It is not, of course, simply that, and this is no phenomenon. The thing is, this really is a success for our Soviet space medicine. Of course, having completed the planned on-board program, we can now provide medicine with the necessary information it has been awaiting for so long. This information, of course, will be used in the future, and we know, we feel, and we are sure that we will not stop at this 300-day flight. Other comrades will travel farther, and, of course, many people are now talking about Mars. Mars is coming closer and closer to us, to earth.

[Aleksandrov] I must say that we today—and especially Yura, and with his long stay in flight and period in orbit—I must say that today there is an added improvement in our condition, even though it was good enough even yesterday. So one fact is clear. This phenomenon may even exist for those who are not initiated into the theory and practice of our business: maintaining the state of health in flight. Today we are not going further. We are not doing any running because we are pursuing the same line in medicine—not to begin to walk sharply, not to start any sharp movements—those purely sporting movements—although we are able to walk around the streets. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Further on 'Mir' Cosmonauts' Activities

Work Program Noted

LD311057 Moscow TASS in English 1006 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 31 TASS—Soviet Cosmonauts Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov will usher in 1988 in orbit.

Their space platform "Mir" (which means "Peace" in Russian) will enter the "New Year Zone" for the first time as early as at 14 hours 57 minutes Moscow time today over New Zealand and at midnight Moscow time they will be coasting above the Cape of Good Hope.

Their program of work for December 31 provides for performing their required pre-starting procedures and then switching on a system called Elektron, which is meant to add oxygen to the platform's atmosphere, checking radio communications facilities, and taking stock of the expendable materials used by the platform's life-support system.

Titov and Manarov will take a day off tomorrow. Their relatives and friends will come to the Ground Control-Center to wish them Happy New Year and congratulate Crew Commander Titov who turns 41 on January 1.

Both cosmonauts are feeling well.

The flight of the orbiting platform "Mir" is proceeding normally.

New Year's Eve Menu Given

LD310951 Moscow TASS in English 0919 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 31 TASS—TASS Correspondent Rena Kuznetsova writes:

It so happened that Soviet Cosmonauts Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov will celebrate the coming of the new year 1988 on board the orbital complex "Mir". They have taken the place of the long-duration space expedition crew Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Aleksandrov.

What will be the New Year's Eve menu of the cosmonauts? I addressed this question to the specialists of the cosmonauts' training centre and the institute of medico-biological problems.

The answer was that the most tasty things of the weekly ration will be in the menu, such as, in particular, chicken paste and prunes, sturgeon in jellied tomato juice, grape juice and fruit sticks for dessert, and, of course, space bread which is pre-wrapped in the shape of small "loaves" the size of a sweet to avoid crumbs which are undesirable in zero gravity conditions. The space bread retains the taste and aroma of the freshly-baked terrestrial one.

There are different opinions about space food: "Delicious". "Nothing will compare with terrestrial food", and "everything tastes the same".

What is the difference between space food and the ordinary terrestrial one? I remember the smart "white hall" of the cosmonauts' training centre near Moscow where the Soviet cosmonauts and American astronauts gathered for one of the first meetings during the preparation for the Soyuz-Apollo space flight. There was degustation of space food, too. I still remember the inimitable taste of an excellent meat stew, and special tubes with juice retained the smells of fruit well.

Space menu now includes about 70 dishes. The ration comprises meat, fish and dairy products, and confectioneries. The most favourite ones are the Russian sorrel broth, the Georgian piquant kharcho soup, beef with mashed potatoes, prunes, and grape juice. The dinner menu of the present crew is approximately the same. There are delicatessen, too, curds with nuts, for example.

Previously cosmonauts adhered to a certain ration drawn up by medical specialists. At present they themselves order their "personal" menu according to their taste.

All food stocks on board the orbital complex are prepacked in the form of daily and weekly rations.

Space Flight Official on Long Duration Flights

LD311100 Moscow TASS in English 1024 GMT 31 Dec 87

[Text] Moscow December 31 TASS—"The accomplishment of the long-duration space expedition is the triumph of not only cosmonauts but also of a huge number of specialists of the Mission Control Centre, the cosmonauts' training centre, many organizations and institutions of the Soviet Union," Viktor Blagov, deputy director of the flight, has said in an interview with a TASS correspondent.

On the eve of the new year Yuriy Romanenko has returned to earth upon accomplishing the programme during the 326-day space flight. No one has yet worked in space for so long. Aleksandr Aleksandrov stayed on board the orbital complex "Mir" for 160 days. Cosmonaut-Researcher Anatoliy Levchenko returned together with them.

"A day is not far off", Viktor Blagov said, "when man will set out on space voyages to other planets. At present scientists look for an answer to the key question how long man can live and fruitfully work in extreme conditions of zero gravity. We can say with good reason that the way for a consistent and systematic study and exploration of outer space has been chosen correctly. An orbital complex, crews on which are changed during the expedition, already functions in orbit."

"The expedition's research programme has been accomplished to the full. By means of the Kvant research module alone, more than 500 sessions of study of various astrophysical objects were carried out, and 270 photo pictures of starry sky areas were taken due to the ultraviolet telescope Glazar".

"Of course, something had to be continuously adjusted and changed during the flight", Viktor Blagov pointed out. "The experience of the previous expedition was also taken into account when adjusting a programme for next long-duration expedition which has been embarked upon by Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov".

Barsukov Comments on Projects With U.S.

LD190236 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1415 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Last week a Soviet-U.S. group for researching the solar system held a successful meeting. The first working protocol was signed, which develops the agreement for cooperation by scientists of both countries in the study and assimilation of space. From the Soviet side, the protocol was signed by Valeriy Leonidovich Barsukov, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Director of the Institute of Geochemistry and Analytical Chemistry; and from the U.S. side by Sam Keller, deputy director of NASA.

Speaking on the Youth and Scientific and Technological Progress program, Barsukov said:

[Begin Barsukov recording] After a 6 year break, only last year Shevardnadze and Shultz once again signed an accord on cooperation in space studies. Essentially this is the first meeting to examine issues of possible cooperation in studying the solar system. Our working group is involved in studying planets and lesser bodies of the solar system. This is the first exchange of plans for the next few years, and for the longer term. Our U.S. colleagues shared their plans with us, and we told them about our plans.

Basically, both our and the U.S. plans, regarding the inner planets, now concentrate on two problems: the study of Mars and preparations for a manned flight to it, and the study of lesser bodies of the solar system, which can teach us about preplanetary evolution. We need to carry out enormous work to choose landing sites on Mars and to answer questions on geological history, the climate, and water, about the chances or the absence of biological activity now or in the past. This requires a selection of samples from very well thought out and specially chosen sites. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Begin Keller recording, in English with superimposed Russian translation] It is one of five working groups that was created as part of the Soviet-U.S. agreement on space, and we are trying to find ways in which cooperation could proceed between the United States and the USSR in studying the solar system. For example, look at the Soviet program headed by Professor Barsukov to study Venus: In this program a lot of very interesting information has been received. In a few years we intend to launch a spacecraft to Venus; of course, the information obtained by our Soviet colleagues would be very useful to us. At the same time, our Soviet colleagues are developing plans to fly to Mars, particularly to Phobos, a satellite of Mars. The Soviet mission to Phobos would be able to use the information gained in our Viking program. I believe such an exchange of information would accelerate the development of space science. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Possibilities for Living on Moon Described

LD202313 Moscow in Serbo-Croatian to Yugoslavia 2000 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] [First Announcer] The founder of Soviet practical space technology, Sergey Korolev, wrote in his time that a permanent satellite of the moon should perhaps be set up and a foundation space base built on the moon itself. This would be a preparation for flights to other planets. The cosmodrome on the moon would represent a gateway to the expanse of space; generations of scientists have dreamed about this. The authors of science fiction novels have even written about towns on the moon and today, scientists from various countries are taking a close look at outlines of future lunar colonies.

[Second announcer] We still do not know whether the body in the sky closest to us will be conquered to such an extent that it will become mankind's second home. For the time being, there is a more modest task—to create a scientific laboratory on the moon. Scientists are convinced that it is precisely there that they will find answers to many puzzles. Exceptionally important experiments can be performed there, and technological processes can be organized that cannot be carried out on earth. If we were to transport an optical telescope to the moon, we would be able to see planets of almost 100 of the nearest stars. With the aid of a radio telescope, we would achieve a view into unknown depths of space. The moon itself holds many secrets. For example, even today scientists debate its origin and composition. In order to find answers to these questions, research is vital, and a permanent scientific base is essential.

[First announcer] What would this be built from?

[Second announcer] From the materials available there. When automatic stations brought samples of the moon's surface to earth, it was established that if this material is crushed and mixed with water, concrete can be made. Bricks can also be baked, and building blocks can be made. It has also been shown that rock from the moon usually gives protection from cosmic radiation.

[First announcer] How can metal be obtained?

[Second announcer] That problem can also be solved. The moon has hidden its riches, but it is not difficult to get to them. There is also water there, but it is to be found in a mineral called ilmenite. In order to obtain water from it, it must be heated in the presence of hydrogen. The resulting reaction gives (?clean water) as a by-product.

[First announcer] Where can we find hydrogen?

[Second announcer] On the surface of the moon itself. Thanks to the so-called solar wind, it has been collecting there for several billion years. Oxygen, which is essential for breathing, is also obtained from ilmenite by a process of ordinary heating. A kilogram of this mineral gives over 100 grams of oxygen. In a word, all the resources necessary for life exist on the moon. It is true that there is no food. This will be brought from earth until [word indistinct] materials and biological complexes are created in the base. Of course, now it is difficult to imagine orchards and meadows on th moon. However, a short time ago an interesting expe.iment was carried out. Plants were sown in soil brought from the moon, and they grew. It is calculated that special plantations can provide each crew member with 1.5 kg of vegetable food daily.

[First announcer] Apart from water, air, food, and building materials, is there enough energy on the moon? The opinions of specialists are divided on this. Some consider that the most suitable sources of energy would be

nuclear and perhaps thermonuclear, and it is assumed that there are great supplies of (?oxygen) elements on the moon. Others, however, believe solar batteries more important. These would have to be placed at the poles the sun illuminates almost continually. Any other place and the batteries would not function in the long, lunar nights.

[Second announcer] There are even more exotic projects, such as the use of thermocircuits. On earth it is difficult to find sufficiently great differences in temperature in the natural environment for their application. But on the moon these differences reach 300 degrees, which enables effective work. The first specific projects of lunar laboratories appeared about 20 years ago. In one of these, the western side of the Ocean of Storms was proposed as a landing zone, where it is easier to bring freight from earth. This is where substantial deposits of ilmenite are found. This, or some other more suitable place for landing, will be more precisely determined with the help of a new generation of automatic probes that will move around the moon.

They are supposed to start at the beginning of the nineties. Then automatic moon craft will be swung into action and carry out technical measurements. After this, there will be a landing by the first explorers: four men with two jeep-like vehicles. In 30 days they are to specify exactly the place where the first accommodation module will be constructed. Fitters, construction engineers, and researchers will arrive on the moon when the automatic ships bring in everything necessary. Eight flights are envisaged for this purpose. The main part of the station's crew will arrive on the ninth flight, after which the planned purpose of the work begins.

[First announcer] Conquering the moon is a grandiose project. With this conquest, mankind could approach the threshold of the third millenium. The fate of this project depends to a large extent on whether mankind will be successful in pooling its efforts in the peaceful research of space for peaceful purposes. The USSR has made appeals for this at state level. In a message our government has sent to Perez de Cuellar, secretary-general of the United States, a phased program is put forward for joint practical actions up to the year 2000. It contains the scientific-technical, organizational, and material bases on which, as early as in the first decades of the 21st century, the practical mastery over and exploitation of the moon would begin, among other things also as a base for flights to other planets.

Soviets, Czechs Conduct Pollution Study

LD200335 Moscow International Service in Czech 1600 GMT 26 Nov 87

[Text] [Announcer] Soviet and Czech scientists have carried out a rare experiment in the field of nature protection. In Czechoslovakia, a floating laboratory for refueling landed and took off again. At the same time, cameras aboard three artificial satellites were focused on earth. The crew of the orbital complex "Mir" also switched on their cameras. On earth, stationary and mobile units also joined in this experiment. At approximately the same moment, all these instruments began measuring and observing pollution in the atmosphere over large Czechoslovak cities. At the microphone is Yulian Novikov, who is heading the work on the Soviet side. He is head of the department of space monitoring, Goskomgidrometa, of the USSR and the Soviet Academy of Sciences:

[Novikov, in Russian with superimposed Czech translation] Nowadays there is no country, particularly in Europe, that would not be harmed by pollution in the region's atmosphere. Emissions are present over the territory of Czechoslovakia and penetrate into the USSR. The experiment will make it possible to determine the regular routes of so-called transfrontier fumes, for example between Czechoslovakia and Austria, between FRG and Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, and [word indistinct]. We would like to try to determine general rules and tendencies.

It is interesting to look at the origin of this experiment. The idea was born as a result of our cooperation with our Czechoslovak colleagues. We have been cooperating now for 5 years, working in unison and understanding each other well. Every year we prepare plans for joint research and try to strictly adhere to them. In the beginning of December, Czech experts who took part in a recent experiment will come to Moscow. At the same time, we will analyze the information gathered to determine the main conclusions. Recently, Dr (Sobisek) phoned us from Prague. He headed the experiment for the Czech side. He said his report at the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, as part of the Intercosmos program on the results of the first interstate experiment on monitoring environmental pollution, was most valuable. We were pleased with it. We also want to say that the Czechoslovak Government very attentively followed this work, and comprehensive help was given to us.

[Announcer] Could we hear some details about the results of the experiment?

[Novikov] We have gathered data about pollution in the atmosphere over Prague, Bratislava, and Ostrava. We have also measured the level of aerosols in the air, and of other components; and about 15 photographs were taken from space. A question may arise as to why Czechoslovakia was selected for this experiment. It is because it is in lowlands and is very sensitive to atmospheric phenomena. Naturally, industrial emissions in Czechoslovakia also influence the atmosphere of its neighbors. But as a scientist, I think the air is being increasingly polluted [words indistinct].

Western propaganda nowadays often talks about the ecological situation in Czechoslovakia. They talk about some kind of independent ecological events. I do not know what this means. This could be possible only if we

enclosed the country in a glass barrel. But in central Europe a state cannot exist autonomously. It is neither possible nor necessary. On the contrary, it is necessary to unite efforts to protect the environment. [words indistinct] even a country that itself does not pollute—if one could be found—could not be safe. That is why protecting the environment is not just an internal problem. This problem will probably be one of the most pressing ones for decades to come.

[Announcer] With whom, apart from Czechoslovakia, have you established contact?

[Novikov] We have been cooperating with GDR experts. Together with them, for example, we have been tackling one of the most interesting questions of the influence of pollution on forest ecology, on forests in the GDR. Next month, here in Moscow, there will be a scientific conference during which we will assess research on the situation in one of the big forests of Leipzig.

There is a problem in cooperating with Polish scientists. In order to agree on work plans, we would like, at the end of the year, to meet in Moscow or Warsaw. That has not been agreed upon definitely. All this is evidence that the fraternal countries are, just as we are, worried about the environmental situation, about preserving a clean atmosphere and forests, which are particularly subsceptible to the influence of harmful substances, and, above all, caring for the health of the people—preserving life on earth.

Cosmic Telescope 'Astronomy' Described

OW200057 Moscow in Mandarin to Southeast Asia 1200 GMT 26 Nov 87

[text] This is the fifth year of the "Astronomy" cosmic telescope's orbit around the earth. The length of service of this specific device for science has so far been three times longer than originally projected. It is still transmitting very interesting information to the earth.

Since the earth's atmosphere absorbs strong rays almost completely, only a device outside the atmosphere can observe stars, nebulas, and galaxies from their ultraviolet and (?circular) spectra. The main lense of the double-lense optical telescope on the "Astronomy" has a diameter of 80 centimeters. This telescope, which can make very good spectral analyses of matters, was devised by Soviet scientists together with members of the Marseilles Astronomical Laboratory of France.

The "Astronomy" monitored Halley's Comet for 8 months. From the several hundred pictures taken, it was possible to determine the speed at which this comet lost mass when it approached the sun. Halley's comet lost 370 million metric tons in its recent pass near the sun. Of course, this was not a big loss compared to the total mass of the comet's nucleus. However, it will come back many dozen times and, finally, will lose its crust and become an asteroid. At that time, no one will pay attention to it.

On one occasion, the Cosmic Remote-Sensing Center communicated with the "Astronomy" several hundred times, and each time the latter turned to the proper direction as instructed and communicated back to earth. This operation lasted a total of 3 hours, and scientists obtained more than 80,000 pieces of survey data.

The "Astronomy" has determined the content of heavy molecules in the atmospheres of constellations and the movement of non-stationary [word indistinct] stars. In accordance with the plans of Soviet, French, GDR, Czechoslovak, and Italian scientists, the "Astronomy" has taken pictures of over 100 stars, about 30 galaxies, dozens of nebulas, and several comets. But its main tasks are not limited to this. When [words indistinct], there were two cosmic telescopes— the "Astronomy" and a 40-cm telescope of Europe—and later cosmonauts of our country also took part in observing this unique phenomenon by using the astronomical equipment on the "Kuvant" space module rendezvoused with the "Mir" orbiting station. After ballistic experts made calculations and adjusted the plan, the "Astronomy" began observing the phenomenon.

It takes 4 days and nights for the "Astronomy" to make a revolution around the earth, providing new information to the earth every 4 days. Now, an opaque illuminating shell has formed around the [words indistinct]. This shell continues to enlarge, while its temperature is gradually lowering and its brightness is diminishing. Scientists are now anxiously waiting to see [words indistinct].

Soviet astrophysicists have begun to study what type of telescope should be used to replace the "Astronomy." The main lens of the new telescope will be still larger, and the equipment at the control station will be more sophisticated. At the station, computers will be used to manipulate the telescope, with which scientists will be able to make meticulous observations of stars and galaxies.

Academician Dies, Leaders Sign Obituary

LD042303 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1820 GMT 4 Dec

[Text] Moscow, 4 Dec (TASS)—The outstanding Soviet scientist Academician Yakov Borisovich Zeldovich, a great physicist and head of the theoretical section of the Institute of Physical Problems of the USSR Academy of Sciences, died suddenly on 2 December.

The obituary, signed by leaders of the party and the Soviet state, says that Yakov Zeldovich made an enormous contribution toward establishing the modern theory of combustion and detonation, the physics of explosions and shock waves, nuclear physics and the physics of elementary particles, the theory of gravitation and cosmology, high-energy astrophysics, and X-ray astronomy.

Yakov Zeldovich's contribution toward ensuring the country's defense capability is inestimable. [Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland at 2000 GMT notes the obituary was "signed by Mikhael Gorbachev and other leaders."]